

Moscow responds to Bush initiative

Soviet armed forces will be cut by half

By CHARLES BRENNER IN MOSCOW AND MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON

THE Soviet Union announced plans yesterday to cut its armed forces by almost half as a first response to President Bush's proposals to make sweeping cuts in America's nuclear arsenal.

The cuts, which represent the biggest military reforms by Moscow for a hundred years, would leave the Soviet Union with an armed force of between two and two and a half million men.

Colonel-General Pavel Grachev, the first deputy defence minister, presented the plan to the parliament of the Russian Federation. President Gorbachev has appointed a group of advisers to prepare a substantive response to Mr Bush's proposals in the next few days. That response will deal with nuclear weapons.

Yesterday Andrei Grachev, spokesman for Mr Gorbachev, said that Soviet strategic missiles covered by the strategic arms reduction treaty would be removed from full alert status. Mr Bush announced a similar move last

Friday. Soviet short-range tactical weapons may also be cut unilaterally, Mr Grachev said.

Although the Bush administration is likely to welcome the Soviet plan, Mr Bush has made clear that he is counting on Moscow to reduce its nuclear arsenal.

The Soviet move came as a team of American arms specialists prepared to go to Moscow this week to open talks about parallel cuts, the State Department said. Margaret Turtwiler, the department's spokeswoman, said that Washington was willing to discuss a Soviet proposal to discontinue all nuclear weapons tests by either country and that both sides were ready to talk about Mr Bush's suggested reductions in nuclear arms stockpiles.

The proposed cuts in Soviet forces were announced as the republics are becoming increasingly uneasy about the wisdom of maintaining any integrated force. Most of the republics are planning to establish their own forces and to take control of Soviet forces on their territory. General Grachev said that the notion of creating independent national forces was dangerous and that top priority must now be given to forming joint forces, including nuclear ones, and putting them under the command of the planned union of sovereign states.

As the general was making his announcement yesterday, General Sir John Chapple, the British chief of general staff, was being briefed by Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, who took over as Soviet defence minister after the failed coup attempt in August, on the huge task facing the military leadership as they adapt their forces to the new political scene. "They strike me as being pretty formidable problems," he said.

The Soviet forces are to start engaging volunteers, or "contract" recruits next January. General Grachev said. By 1995, when volunteers will account for 50 per cent of the forces, conscripts will serve for only 12 months. The draft was reduced from two years to 18 months this autumn.

The announcement of cuts in the Soviet armed forces by 1994 clearly refers, however, only to the future unified army planned by the Soviet defence ministry, to which all the republics that sign the Union Treaty will contribute. The two million men are

unlikely to include members of the national guards planned by the republics. This will bring the overall total nearer to the three million announced by Marshal Shaposhnikov earlier this week.

The Russian republic is planning a national guard of up to 50,000 by 1993, equipped with helicopters, light artillery and armoured personnel carriers. The Ukraine is expected to form a force of about 30,000. The national guard could add another 350,000 troops to the figure for Soviet forces announced by General Grachev.

General Vladimir Lobov, Soviet chief of general staff, told General Chapple that each republic should be allowed to operate its own national guard independent of the union command. The Soviet defence ministry has accepted that there is a place for national guards for internal security. It is concerned about the danger of some republics forming their own armies without any allegiance to Moscow.

Some of the manpower cuts will follow the planned merger of the strategic rocket forces, the air force and the air defence forces. This could release up to 150,000 troops, according to Richard Wolff, of the Soviet studies centre at Sandhurst military academy.

Mr Bush yesterday made \$585 million (£334 million) in agricultural credit guarantees available to the Soviet Union immediately to help them through the winter. The loans had not been expected to be agreed so soon. The administration also said it would guarantee 100 per cent of the principal on the loans to make them more attractive to bankers.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

PARTY LINE



Maureen Lipman will feature in a television campaign advertising the sale in early December of half the government's 49 per cent share in BT. The sale is expected to raise about £5 billion
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WORD POWER



Gloria Steinem stopped accepting advertising in her American magazine—and turned the failing Ms. into a 'born-again hit'. Could it happen here? Page 13

ON HIS METAL



Nicholas Grimshaw, award-winning architect, is heavily into metal, computers, curves and long-lasting buildings. Marcus Binney meets him Page 15

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in The Times' 12-page appointments section, circulated in Britain.

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America and France suspend aid to Haiti

THE United States and France yesterday suspended all aid to Haiti after military leaders toppled President Aristide in a coup. A three-man junta led by General Raoul Cedras announced that it was in control of the impoverished island (Our Foreign Staff writes).

Father Aristide, the Roman Catholic priest who was the country's first democratically elected president was flown to Caracas, Venezuela, yesterday. His government was returned to power.

Venezuela refuge, page 11

Pub bomb officers to be charged

FOUR former West Midlands detectives who investigated the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974, including Superintendent George Reade, the head of the enquiry, are to face charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and perjury.

The decision to prosecute the former officers has been taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions. It comes six months after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions of the Birmingham Six, who served 16 years after being found guilty of killing 21 people in the bombings.

Mr Reade and three detectives who were on his bombing enquiry team have been summoned to appear before Bow Street magistrates in London on November 19.

Police accused, page 3

Major mediates on EC union treaty

By SHEILA GUNN AND GEORGE BROCK

JOHN Major is preparing to offer the Dutch prime minister Ruud Lubbers a framework for a compromise deal on moves towards European political union which will keep open the chances of a new EC treaty being signed at the Maastricht summit in December.

Mr Lubbers and the EC president, Jacques Delors, have accepted the prime minister's invitation, as host of the group of seven leading industrialised nations, to visit Downing Street tomorrow.

Although Mr Major's plans for emergency food aid to the Soviet Union are cited as the chief reason for the meeting, government sources confirmed last night that the prime minister and Mr Lubbers, together with their foreign and finance ministers, will also be discussing what is

Continued on page 22, col 2

Labbers retreat, page 12

Choking Greeks look to the gods for help

From CHRIS ELIOT
IN ATHENS

MILLIONS of Athenians are praying to Aeolos, the god of wind, to blow away a toxic cloud hanging over the Greek capital that has sent more than 200 people to hospital with breathing and heart problems. The cloud, known here as the *nefes*, has forced the government to introduce emergency measures. For the first time since June 1989, private cars were banned from the centre of Athens, from 6am to 5pm. Even senior government officials and journalists, normally exempt, were included in the ban.

Astonishingly, most Athenian drivers complied, but taxis with licence plates ending in uneven numbers and heavily polluting Hungarian-made buses continued to ply the stricken streets. Delivery lorries and motorcycles were

also exempt. Despite the ban nitrogen dioxide levels reached a new record as the temperature climbed to an unusual 36°C, the official Perpi environmental agency reported. A haze hung over the Acropolis, leaving the mountains which ring this ancient capital of about four million people dimly visible through the *nefes*. Nitrogen dioxide readings in the city centre reached 561 micrograms, well over the 500-microgram limit requiring emergency steps in usually congested Athens.

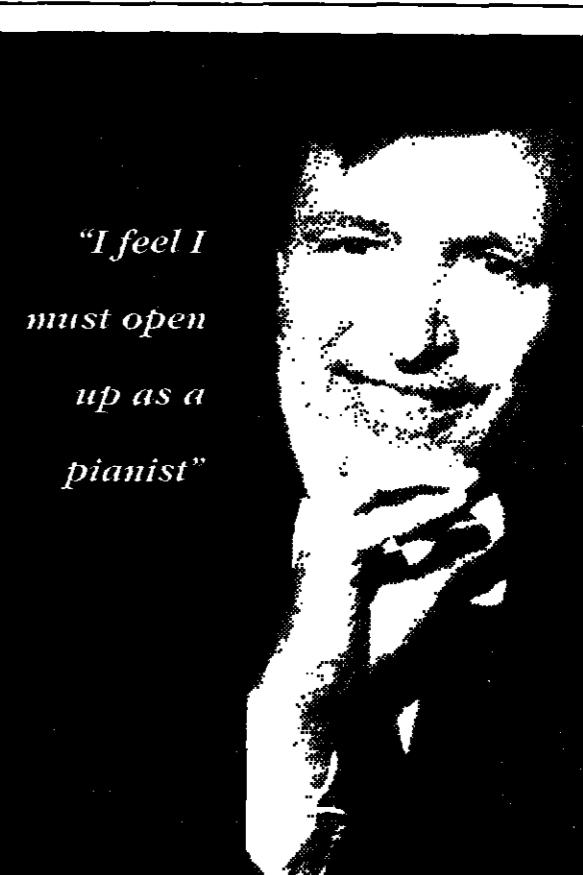
Elderly people were particularly badly hit by the heat and the toxic cloud, and hospitals reported scores of fainting cases in offices and buses. Private pollution monitoring groups criticised the government for closing the stable door after the horse had bolted, saying measures should have been taken several days ago when toxic levels, and tem-

peratures, began to rise. High temperatures and a virtual absence of wind pushed pollution levels above acceptable rates on Monday.

By yesterday the city was like a greenhouse. Local radio stations chose a more morbid image, comparing the capital to a "gas chamber". No relief is in sight until tomorrow, when moderate northerly winds are forecast for the area.

Tzannis Tzannetakis, the deputy prime minister, said that the 11-hour ban would be repeated today, and asked Athenians to limit their movements by vehicle.

Perpi reported that nitrogen dioxide, the chief pollutant in Athens, reached 696 micrograms a cubic metre in Patission Street, in the city centre, yesterday morning. The previous record was 683 micrograms on June 10 last year.



Murray Perahia in the October issue of

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ON SALE NOW

Major will tell building societies to fund debt counselling



Ezra: fund set up after debts investigation

THE prime minister is preparing to put pressure personally on the large lending institutions to provide finance to pay for debt counselling services for those with serious financial problems.

Downing Street officials were yesterday briefed on the latest stage of developments in a programme to have big providers of credit voluntarily meet the costs of debt counselling.

However, the building societies have refused to contribute to a fund set up after an investigation of the problems of debt by a committee chaired by Lord Ezra, former chairman of the National

Coal Board. John Major and the economic policy unit at Downing Street are now understood to be preparing to meet the building societies to insist that they make substantial contributions to the fund.

His direct intervention will underline the government's view that the financial institutions should be more responsible in their lending policies and ensure that they provide support to victims of higher interest rates and injudicious lending.

Many agencies working in the counselling field now believe that only a compulsory levy among

As John Major prepares to intervene in a dispute over funding debt advice centres, David Young examines the pressures for a compulsory levy on the lending institutions

banks, building societies and finance houses will raise enough money to meet the growing burden on such voluntary agencies as Citizens Advice Bureaux and local council debt centres.

However, the government is still hopeful that the Money Advice Trust, a charity set up after the Ezra committee reported, will be able to raise its target of £3 million.

over three years. The trust has so far raised £250,000 in cash, a further £250,000 worth of secondments from banks and credit houses and £500,000 worth of commitments.

The main banks, some credit companies and providers of credit such as British Telecom, British Gas and the area electricity boards have contributed in cash or man-

power to the trust, but the building societies argue that they already provide a sophisticated and wide range of debt counselling services in their many high street offices.

The Building Societies Association said: "We also feel that we should not contribute to paying for debt counselling for people who have borrowed from those who do not offer such services and who do not screen applicants for credit as well as we do." The building societies also argue that the proposed voluntary levy of £10 for every £1 million lent is unrealistic, particularly as building society mortgage lending accounts for about 83 per cent of all borrowing. The societies say any levy should be on the amount of arrears involved which, because of their vetting procedures, are small compared with their overall lending.

The argument that Mr Major is understood to be ready to use to the building societies is that they should contribute to the levy because mortgage arrears often lead to people taking on further financial commitments and that the societies receive £400 million each year in interest payments from the Department of Social Services for unemployed mortgage holders.

Demonstrators clash with police after tax rebels' goods are seized over £360 bill

FRANK BRADFORD

Protest stops poll tax debtors' sale

By KERRY GILL

A SALE of poll tax debtors' goods was stopped yesterday after a rowdy demonstration by about 300 protesters in Glasgow.

Sheriff officers were forced to call off the warrant sale, only the second of its kind in Scotland, after protesters led by Tommy Sheridan, chairman of the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation, forced their way through the padlocked gates of the former police station in Turnbull Street, where the sale was to have been held. They besieged a van containing the officers and goods taken from the home of Jim Brennan and his wife, of Port Glasgow, who owed £360.

The crowd then surrounded Abernethy McIntyre and Freida Reilly, the sheriff officers, and broke the lights and number plates of the van. Police reinforcements were called and about 60 officers regained control. A police spokesman later said that no arrests had been made but an investigation into the incident was being held.

The demonstration began more than two hours before the sale as about 300 protesters, surrounded by police, shouted and taunted the sheriff officers. Mr McIntyre said: "When I saw the crowd, I was

hoping the police were right at their back. We did suspect that there might be problems, but someone has to put their neck on the block and do it."

Shortly before 11am, Strathclyde regional council, which is owed the money, announced that the warrant sale had been cancelled. A spokesman said that the decision had been taken by the sheriff officers after talks with the police. "It was decided that there was the possibility of injury to police officers and, in conjunction with the police, sheriff officers decided to postpone the warrant sale," he said.

Mr Sheridan said that, although the Conservative government was to blame for the poll tax, it was a Labour-held council that had ordered the sale and attacked a family unable to pay the debt. A warrant sale, he said, was barbaric.

Mr Sheridan, who took part in the protest in spite of a court order banning him from the area, told the crowd he was delighted at stopping the sale. "What we have done is to put down a marker to every working class family in Scotland," he said. "They don't have to be scared of the sheriff officers — just contact the federation." An application



Rearguard action: police trying to hold back demonstrators in the courtyard of a former police station in Turnbull Street, Glasgow, yesterday

for an extension of the not comment last night. pointing the system in which goods are assessed for sale in lieu of a debt, has been made by the officers. The goods were seized from the Brennans' home in January after they refused to pay £360 in poll tax arrears. The family was not at the sale and would

More than £365 million is still owing for the first two years of the poll tax in Scotland, with about £700 million owed for the current year, according to figures released last month by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities.

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Police sanction murders of IRA, says TV report

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ASSASSINATIONS of IRA activists and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland are being planned and sanctioned by a secret organisation supplied with intelligence from a disaffected group within the Royal Ulster Constabulary, according to a Channel 4 programme to be broadcast tonight.

The organisation, known as the Ulster Central Co-ordinating Committee, is dedicated to turning Ulster into an independent, Protestant-dominated state, is primed with intelligence material from a shadowy, highly organised group of RUC officers disillusioned with the security forces' performance against republican para-militaries.

The man, who is not identified, says the committee, which is dedicated to turning Ulster into an independent, Protestant-dominated state, is primed with intelligence material from a shadowy, highly organised group of RUC officers disillusioned with the security forces' performance against republican para-militaries.

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The source told the programme makers: "Normally the case is that the 'inner force' would come to the ... committee and advise that the time is now right for a certain republican to be eliminated. It would be discussed at the committee, they would look at all the implications ... they would then leave it to the local 'inner force' group, or people who 'inner force' would appoint to organise."

Murders said to have been orchestrated by the committee include the shooting in March last year of a suspected IRA activist after he visited a police station to sign on for bail and the killing in February 1989 of Pat Finucane, a solicitor who had represented many Catholics accused of terrorism. All the murders remain unsolved.

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Whitehall delays handicap police

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A 20-YEAR Home Office delay in creating a national computer system for matching fingerprints to records has left forces swamped by unusable evidence and undetected crime, according to one of Britain's most senior police leaders.

Police said to have been orchestrated by the committee include the shooting in March last year of a suspected IRA activist after he visited a police station to sign on for bail and the killing in February 1989 of Pat Finucane, a solicitor who had represented many Catholics accused of terrorism. All the murders remain unsolved.

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Detectives accused of perjury in pub bombings enquiry

By CRAIG SETON

FOUR former detectives of West Midlands police are being prosecuted for alleged conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and perjury over their role in the investigation of the Birmingham public house bombings in 1974.

Among them is retired superintendent George Reade, who led the enquiry. The former officers, all retired, have been summoned to appear before Bow Street magistrates in London on November 19 to face the charges.

The decision to prosecute was taken by Sir Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, and announced yesterday by the Crown Prosecution Service. The news came six months after the

Court of Appeal freed six Irishmen who were convicted of the Birmingham public house bombings, after they had served 16 years in prison.

The four who have been summoned are Mr Reade, former detective sergeant Colin Morris and former detective constables Terence Woodiwiss and Rex Langford. The men were said last night by friends to have been devastated by the DPP's decision.

The Crown Prosecution Service said that the four should be prosecuted for offences arising out of the investigation into the bombings. The summonses were served on Mr Reade's solicitor in Walsall, West Midlands, and a solicitor

representing the others in London by John Evans, chief constable of Devon and Cornwall.

The Devon and Cornwall force was appointed in March of last year to investigate new evidence relating to the original West Midlands police enquiry into the Birmingham public house bombings, in which 21 people were killed and more than 160 were injured.

The force's finding led David Waddington as home secretary to refer the case of the six men convicted of the bombings to the Court of Appeal for a second time. In March the court quashed their convictions as unsafe and unsatisfactory and freed the men after hearing that scientific tests threw doubts on a statement allegedly made by one of the six.

The two-week appeal hearing was effectively uncontested by the Crown after the DPP conceded that police and forensic evidence on which the six were convicted was no longer safe. After the Birmingham Six were freed, the Devon and Cornwall force began preparing a report that was presented to the DPP in May.

Mr Reade, of Rugeley, Staffordshire, retired from West Midlands police in 1976. He was based in Walsall at the time of the bombings and became involved in the investigation when he volunteered to help after terrorist bombs exploded in two public houses in Birmingham.

He was sent to Morecambe in Lancashire and, with the other officers, interviewed the suspects. Mr Morris retired from the police last year. He is now believed to be a taxi driver. Mr Woodiwiss retired from the force ten years ago and runs a shop in Gloucestershire. Mr Langford retired last year as a detective sergeant and is now understood to have a job in management.

Friends of the four former officers said that the DPP had "sought the coward's way out". One source said that there was no evidence for a trial, but a decision to prosecute had been taken because of public and media reaction to the freeing of the Birmingham Six.

West Midlands police said last night that the DPP's decision "does not call for a comment from this force".

to the cleaners when I honestly trusted her with everything, as a friend, as a business associate and as an employee."

Earlier, asked whether her friendship with Miss Jackson was so close that she had said she could borrow whatever she liked from the collection, Miss Cierach replied: "Absolutely outrageous. Are you suggesting I am a lesbian or something?"

She said she had been more than generous with Miss Jackson, giving her several suits worth £1,000 each. But she had not given permission for the two dozen garments to be borrowed which were later found at Miss Jackson's flat.

One of them was a "stunning" black ball gown in velvet that would in time be "priceless", Miss Cierach said.

She would not have allowed Miss Jackson to have such a garment made for her, because she did not have the figure for it, she said, and dismissed the idea that she may have given permission for the dress to be made as "utter nonsense".

Georgina Harris, aged 23, who worked at the company, said she found three evening jackets from Miss Cierach's latest collection in a bath at work. She asked Miss Jackson about the jackets, each worth £2,000, and she was told they were for a delivery. Two were later discovered by police at Miss Jackson's home.

The case continues today.

Miss Cierach, who designed the Duchess of York's wedding dress, denied at Southwark crown court that she was blaming Miss Jackson for her company going into liquidation earlier this year. She wept when it was suggested by Sheila Davis, for the defence, that she was blaming Miss Jackson for the collapse.

"In no way has she been blamed. She certainly contributed enormously to the downfall of my company, which has been the deepest, most stressful and straining thing which has ever happened to me," Miss Cierach said.

"Can't you see what she has done? She has stolen goods, a car, cheques, she has stolen enormous sums of money which I have not even brought to light here."

Miss Cierach said she took responsibility for her company's collapse: "I don't take responsibility for trusting somebody totally. She has stolen from me. She took me

to the cleaners when I honestly trusted her with everything, as a friend, as a business associate and as an employee."

Earlier, asked whether her

friendship with Miss Jackson was so close that she had said she could borrow whatever she liked from the collection, Miss Cierach replied: "Absolutely outrageous. Are you suggesting I am a lesbian or something?"

She said she had been more

than generous with Miss Jackson, giving her several suits

worth £1,000 each. But she

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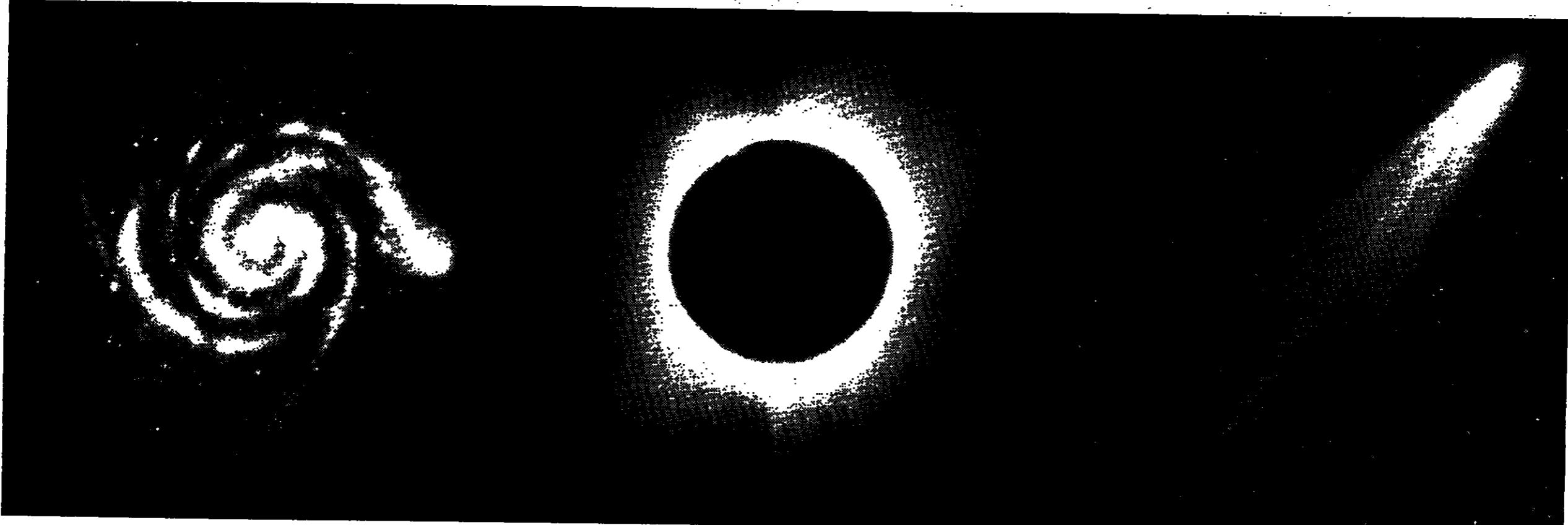
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Inflation ignored as executive pay rises again by 10%

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE pay of British executives and directors increased by 10 per cent on average, almost twice the rate of inflation, during the year to July, according to the annual P-E International survey.

The rate of increase was only 0.2 per cent lower than during the previous year. However, boardroom pay showed a slightly slower rate of increase, and the number of executives receiving increases of more than 20 per cent halved.

The survey results will disappoint ministers who have been urging companies to contain pay increases as inflation falls. In the past 20 years, according to P-E, one of Britain's leading management consultancies, "regardless of how low inflation dropped, salary increases did not fall below 8 per cent, even when inflation was as low as 3 per cent."

The consultants predict: "As we emerge out of today's recession, the combined effect of delayed and previous nil pay awards, and the need to attract and retain high quality staff are most likely to increase the rate of salary awards back up to the 9 to 11 per cent band, or even beyond."

The survey confirms that pay increases in the privatised utilities, which have attracted widespread criticism, were larger than for most private

With less corporate cars

Salary (£)	1990 (%)	1991 (%)	1991 Price (£)
15,000	33	30	10,100
25,000	58	50	13,500
35,000	90	93	16,600
45,000	96	95	19,200
50,000	98	98	22,500
100,000	100	100	29,000

companies. Directors and executives of utilities now average 102 per cent of the industrial norm, compared with 97.4 per cent a year ago.

A typical chief executive officer of a large company now earns a basic £140,000 a year, according to P-E. However, the study, which analysed 8,892 executive posts, from the boardroom to junior management, in 732 companies, found wide variations in pay according to the type of job, the size of company, and its location.

Below boardroom level, lawyers were the best paid executives in companies with sales of up to £100 million, earning a total remuneration package, excluding company cars, worth £39,000. Financial controllers came next, averaging £38,480, while purchasing heads were the least well paid, averaging £32,760.

The larger the company, the bigger the salary. In companies with annual sales of £1 billion, senior legal and financial executives were level with total remuneration worth £62,400. A typical purchasing manager in the same company was still the least well paid executive, earning £10,000.

less than his peer in finance. Making money go round is relatively less lucrative than it was. Although the financial services sector remained the best paid in British industry, typical executive pay in July was 111.5 per cent of the national norm, compared with 122 per cent a year earlier.

The worst-paid sector was minerals, metals and other raw materials, where executives earned only 83.3 per cent of the norm.

Regional differences have also been altered by the recession. Although bosses based in London remained the best paid, earning 112.1 per cent of the norm, the South-West, at 103.8 per cent, replaced the South-East in second place, and Scotland improved to achieve 99.9 per cent. The West Midlands had slipped into last place, with a typical executive earning only 93.2 per cent of the norm for his industry and post.

Company cars have also fallen victim to pressures on company costs, and tougher tax treatment by the Chancellor. Britain still has more company cars than any other country in Europe but the survey shows that the proportion of middle managers, typically earning £25,000, who had company cars had fallen from 80 per cent to 68 per cent in 12 months. There was also a small decline, to 90 per cent, in the number of those earning £35,000 a year who had company cars.

"It is quite possible that the perk car at the middle management level is being withdrawn as companies try to cut costs," said Michael Smith, manager of P-E's salary and personnel policy centre.

However, the proportion of junior managers with company cars had increased to a third. This group also had larger wage rises than any other group. Mr Smith said this might show companies were trying to retain able young managers they would need when economic growth resumes.



Brushing up: Krystina Barakan of English Heritage taking a break from restoring "Lear disinheriting Cordelia" by John Rogers Herbert, one of eight Victorian murals she is working on in the Upper Waiting Room of the Houses of Parliament. The murals, depicting scenes from English poets' works, date from 1848-51

Scientists develop a taste for water

By ROBIN YOUNG

WESSEX Water yesterday opened a new laboratory at its £2 million scientific centre at Salford, near Bath, Avon, dedicated to determining how the company's water tastes.

The company supplies more than a million customers with water from 117 treatment works, 360 service reservoirs and 6,250 miles of pipes throughout 124 distribution zones.

The objective, said Gareth Jones, director of science and quality, was to make all the water taste the same.

"Taste and odour profiling

of water is going to be a very big business," Dr Jones said. "We want to push Europe in the direction of determining what water should really taste like. At present European standards simply say that standards and off-flavours are acceptable if they disappear when the water is diluted three times by volume."

Although the centre has equipment capable of subjecting the water to 500 different tests and analyses, the scientists say that human taste and smell is still their first line of defence. Wessex Water takes 80,000 one-litre samples

of its water supplies annually, about half of them from customers' taps. All are routinely tasted, both by inspectors at customers' homes, and by a trained panel of scientists at the centre.

"Though we hear from our customers on average only once each every 15 years," Dr Jones said, "our customer services department logs every call and we have records going back over the last five years. We supply some of the best water in the whole country, but when a problem is found it can be a job of real

scientific detective work to determine the cause."

One recent example was a flavour of cedar wood, noted by the scientists before water from a new main ever reached the customers. It had come from a chemical used to prevent the pipes deteriorating in storage above ground.

Another company, which failed to notice the effect, was inundated with complaints.

The 12 scientists at Salford chosen for tasting duties were selected after palate tests, and then trained to develop their skills.

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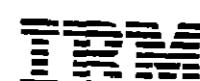
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Half of all ordained ministers are women

Half of all ministers ordained in British churches in the past five years were women, according to a report published today (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Nearly 40 per cent of ministers in Afro-Caribbean churches and 60 per cent of Salvation Army officers are women. According to the UK Christian Handbook, one in two ministers authorised between 1985 and 1990 was a woman, although fewer than one in nine ministers in United Kingdom churches overall is a woman. In the Church of England, 703 women have been ordained deacons, 5 per cent of the clergy.

Sheep starved

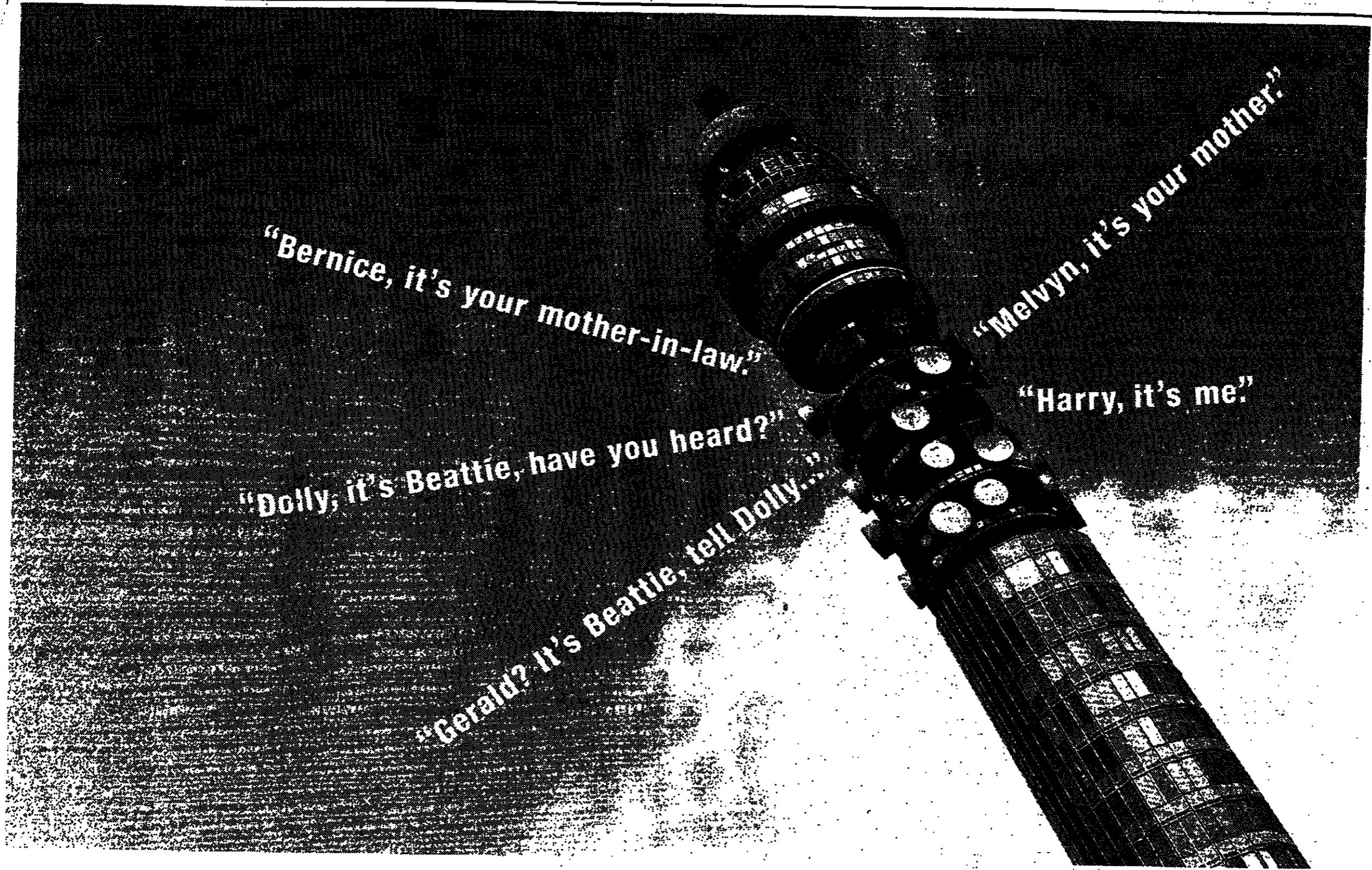
Two livestock exporters have had their licences withdrawn by the agriculture ministry after being accused of violating animal welfare regulations. Undercover inspectors working for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals trailed two consignments of 700 sheep each from Calais to Pescara, in Italy. In each case, the sheep were given no food or water on trips lasting up to 47 hours.

Crowded college

Students at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, are sleeping in a sports hall and doubling up in single rooms because good A-level results persuaded admissions tutors to admit 150 extra applicants. The students' union said 60 people were sleeping in the sports hall, staff rooms and cupboards. The college said that most would be found permanent places within a fortnight.

Party balloons

British crews will be flying three of ten revolutionary balloons, part-helium and part-hot air filled, designed for a race from America to Europe next summer to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America. Only four balloons have made the 3,000-mile crossing.



In case you hadn't heard.

If you've had your ear to the ground lately, you've probably heard talk about a forthcoming share offer. But if for some reason you haven't, listen very carefully, and you'll soon find out what it's about.

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Teenage survey reveals availability of drugs

Employment, exams and Aids worry young people most

By BILL FROST

EMPLOYMENT, education, Aids and drug abuse are the four issues which most concern teenagers in Britain, according to a survey of 14 to 16-year-olds carried out by Gallup for BBC education programmes.

More than a third said they knew a specific place in their area where drugs were available, or knew someone who sold them. Even among 13 and 14-year-olds the figure was 20 per cent. Thirty-eight per cent of the total thought drug abuse was the most important issue facing their generation.

Unemployment was the main concern of 58 per cent, and a third of those who took part reported that nobody had offered them any advice on choosing their first job — a "particularly disquieting" finding, says the report, published today.

Education and examinations were a main preoccupation of 41 per cent. A high level of interest was expressed in examination performance as the fieldwork was conducted during August while the teenagers awaited their GCSE results.

Forty per cent expressed concern over the spread of Aids and the human immunodeficiency virus.

In a similar survey con-

	Total
Well paid job	55
Married	44
Enjoyable job	30
Have children	29
Not rich	27
Have a lot of friends	27
Own business	17
Feel loved	12
Help other people	9
Live abroad	8
Good sex life	7
Lots of leisure time	7
Enough money not to work	7
Be famous	4
Holiday abroad	4
Live in the country	3
Own material possessions	3
Live in a city	2

In spite of fears about their own future, 58 per cent of young people regarded Britain as "a very caring society" and had given money to charity in the six months before the survey was carried out. Slightly more than one in five believed they lived in an "uncaring" society.

More than half — 56 per cent — said they had bought products because they were environmentally friendly. Girls were greener than boys, but both sexes were prepared to spend money to support the environment.

Concern over tests carried out on live animals was expressed by 61 per cent, but there was considerably less anxiety over damage to the ozone layer (44 per cent) and the destruction of rain forests (40 per cent). Working-class young people were twice as likely "to be fed up with hearing about the environment" as those from the middle class.

Ownership of consumer items among those questioned was "astonishingly high," Gallup found. Eighty-six per cent had a personal stereo, and almost as many, 83 per cent, owned a stereo radio-cassette recorder.

However, only 7 per cent described pop music as "one of the most important things in their lives". That said, the teenagers admitted to spending an average of four hours a day listening to music.

Gallup concludes that, apart from the fairly widespread presence of drugs, the present generation of young people appears to be conservative in outlook. Teenage rebellion is not very prevalent, with 82 per cent feeling close to their parents.

The survey interviewed 518 young people in their homes, with quotas set for sex, socio-economic class and ethnic origin.



Little chef: Morgan Jones, aged 11, from Swansea, has his entry judged by Delia Smith, the cookery writer, and Anton Mosimann, the chef, at the Sainsbury's Futurecooks final. The winner was Jenny Docherty, aged 14, of Durham City

How a million acres could be returned to nature

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SURPLUS farmland should be turned into conservation zones and should be at the centre of a new land use strategy, the government's chief advisory body on rural affairs said yesterday.

The Countryside Commission said that up to 15 per cent of the 9.5 million acres used for growing cereals in Britain could be taken out of cultivation during the 1990s under reforms of the European Community's common agricultural policy.

Sir John Johnson, the commission's chairman, said: "If I was a farmer I might find that depressing. But it is probably inevitable, so let us make the best of it for the sake of the English countryside. We are suggesting ways in which set-aside land can be used as a conservation bonus."

Farmers should be offered financial incentives not just to take land out of cultivation but to manage it in an environmentally positive way along the lines of the government's pilot Countryside Stewardship scheme, the commission said. Set-aside land, it suggested, could be used to recreate lightly grazed downland pasture, to restore seasonally flooded meadows, to plant forests near cities and to widen areas of uncultivated land along cliff tops and shorelines, so improving public access and enjoyment.

Adrian Phillips, the commission's director general, said: "The advantage of doing this within an EC framework is that the basic cost of paying farmers to take land out of production would be met out of the community budget. Our 'green' payments for particular forms of land use would come in on the top of that."

The changing economic fortunes of farming offered great scope for recreating valued wildlife habitats, such as heather moorland, in hill re-

gions, Mr Phillips said. The commission's "conservation lands programme" is one of a 140 per cent growth in vehicle numbers by 2005 were alarming. It suggested that car access to national parks and to some other areas might have to be curbed.

Schools to cut science tests from 17 to four

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE first big changes in the national curriculum were proposed yesterday in mathematics and science, drastically reducing the number of tests. David Pascall, chairman of the National Curriculum Council, insisted that there would be no reduction in what children were taught.

"This is fine tuning," said Mr Pascall, a senior manager with BP, who was appointed council chairman earlier this year by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. His brief was to make the curriculum less complex for teachers and more easily understood by parents.

Mr Clarke asked the council to reduce the number of attainment targets in science and mathematics to make them more manageable and bring them into line with the GCSE. The council is recommending that science tests be reduced from 17 to four — one fewer than suggested by Mr Clarke — and mathematics from 14 to five, as proposed by the government.

The number of attainment targets has been cut by reducing the duplication in geography, splitting up energy among other headings, and "blending" some of the requirements. The School Examinations and Assessment Council had told the NCC that its proposals would allow satisfactory but more manageable assessment.

TESTING YEARS

Among things children will be expected to know or asked to do in science are:

At seven: measure the distance a toy car travels along different surfaces; describe how they would look after an animal and a plant; monitor the changes in fruit, a newspaper, a tin can and a plastic bottle that have been buried.

At 11: explain that thicker materials are better insulators; be able to name and locate the main parts of the human body; compare a candle and a car engine and discuss how each transfers energy; explain how an unwinding rubber band causes a mechanism to turn a propeller; consider ways of improving the growth in a plant; understand food chains; know how cloud changes are linked to the weather.

At 14: design an electrical thermometer; measure the current in a simple circuit; explain some causes of a baby being born underweight; devise circuits that switch on a bulb or a buzzer in changing conditions, such as hot or cold, light or dark.

At 16: know the optimum conditions for growing food under glass; know how genetic information is passed from cell to cell; understand the role of microbes.

Hi-tech house captivates judges in RIBA awards

By MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

A HOUSE designed by John Young causes the biggest stir among 36 regional awards announced by the Royal Institute of British Architects today.

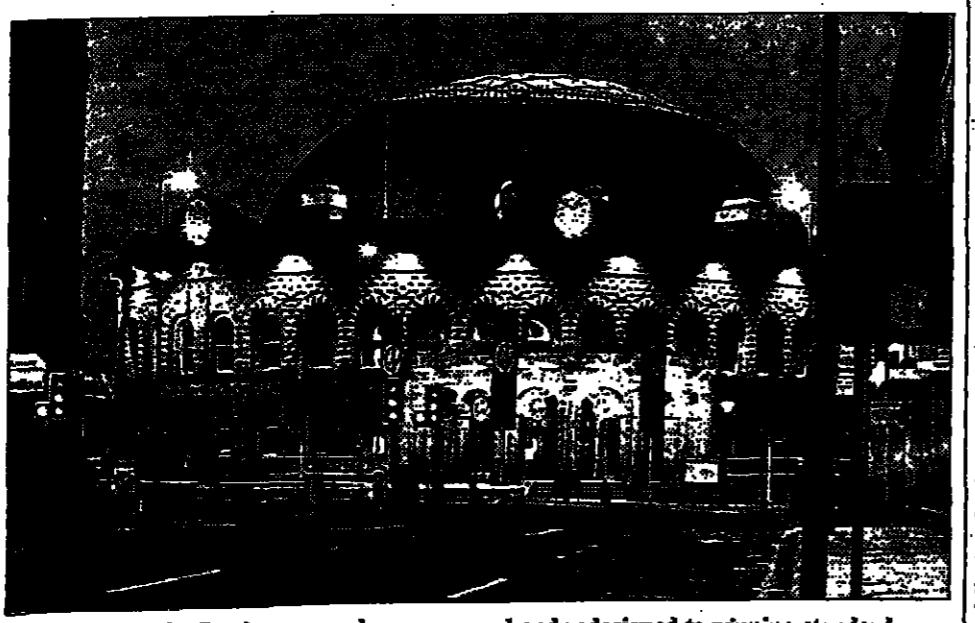
Mr Young, a partner of Sir Richard Rogers, designed the house for himself and his wife Marianne Just, the fashion designer. It is a counterpart of early twentieth century houses designed as "total works of art" and is described by the judges as "the most complete example of high-tech architecture yet seen in a domestic interior".

The bed is on a suspended platform reached by a fluted yellow steel gangplank

and the radiators are in the form of plate coil heaters like ancient warrior's shields. In seeking to combine lightness with strength, Mr Young has set out to transform traditional craftsmanship into a futuristic idiom.

Public swimming pools, schools and grandstands figure prominently in the other 35 awards. Three architectural practices receive two awards. Also Lyall & Storrier gained awards for the rescue and reuse of the Leeds Corn Exchange and a space age visitor centre at Cardiff. Hampshire county council wins an award for Berrywood primary school at Eastleigh. The Don Valley

Arts, page 15



Back again: Leeds corn exchange, rescued and redesigned to winning standard

British Council circles the globe

By MICHAEL BINNEY

THE soaring international demand for English has launched the British Council on a massive expansion of its overseas operations, increasing its grants and earnings last year to a record £362 million despite the recession and often difficult circumstances abroad.

English teaching programmes brought in £36 million last year, more than half the total earned revenue of £62 million, an increase of 4 per cent on 1989-90. Such was the demand for English in the emergent democracies of Central and Eastern Europe that the council used additional Foreign Office grants to launch a £25 million expansion programme in the next five years.

A new centre for English teaching will be opened in Berlin and a resource centre in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

Last year, the council also managed some £4.5 million worth of know-how funds for Eastern Europe in fields ranging from banking to bilingual education, information technology to industrial consultancy.

Sir Richard Francis, the director general, said in his annual report that the global political changes since 1989 had opened up new opportunities for Britain. Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are the main areas of expansion, with the setting up of five new centres in capital cities last year.

The council also returned to Argentina, opened offices in Namibia and Swaziland, opened libraries and study centres in Lublin (Poland), Gdańsk, Lyon, Maputo and Bulawayo and teaching centres in Bologna, Cascais (Portugal), Gaza and Guayaquil (Ecuador). The council is now almost as

broadly based as the diplomatic service, with 162 centres in 90 countries.

But despite efficiency gains more than twice the Whitehall minimum, Sir Richard said that high inflation in Britain had eroded the purchasing power of the government grant. In the current year a deficit of £2.4 million has meant reducing service in 52 countries. He concluded: "If the council is to exploit Britain's cultural potential in the years ahead, it must continue to receive adequate resources to make a significant impact across the world."

This was particularly important in developing countries, where the council increasingly concentrates on British aid priorities: the environment, economic reform, human development, health and population, women and the encouragement of open government and free speech.

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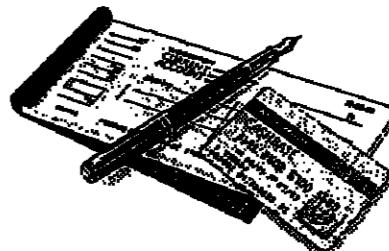
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Irish leader's decade of ruthless power is threatened by waves of financial scandals

The toughest escape act for Haughey the Houdini

The Irish premier is fighting again for his political life. Jamie Dettmer looks back at the many challenges and some disputes he has survived

POLITICAL obituarians in Dublin are sharpening their pens in anticipation of being able to write soon the final notice on the career of the Houdini of Irish politics, Charles James Haughey.

The Irish prime minister had confounded his critics by breaking out from tight corners many times in his 30-year political career. His most dramatic escape, being acquitted in 1970 on a conspiracy charge involving gun-running to Northern Ireland, still lingers in the Irish political psyche, and the British one.

While there is understandable caution among the Dublin chattering class of predicting Mr Haughey's immediate demise there is a feeling that the beginning of the end for him will come in a crucial meeting today of his Fianna Fail party.

A concerted effort to oust Mr Haughey from the leadership is under way and as the waves of backbench revolt and financial scandal continue to break on the main government party, the pretenders to the throne, the education and finance ministers, are hovering.

While a no-confidence motion is unlikely to be proposed by the Irish premier's opponents at the meeting of Fianna Fail's 101 deputies and senators, Mr Haughey's ruthless brand of leadership will come under the microscope. Criticism will be fierce of the man who has dominated Irish politics for more than a decade in much the same way as Margaret Thatcher loomed over the British political landscape.

The current political challenge to Mr Haughey, or the "boss" as he is known, looks flimsy on paper. It began last Friday when four Fianna Fail

backbenchers, two of them sons of former Haughey ministers, declared that the Irish premier's handling of financial scandals involving state industries and businessmen close to Mr Haughey was incomprehensible. Two of the MPs are linked with Mary O'Rourke, education minister, who has made no bones about her political ambitions.

As with the leadership challenge he faced in 1983, Mr Haughey has not been inclined to allow dissent to gain strength. A parliamentary meeting scheduled for two weeks' time was brought forward to today in an effort to stifle the opposition.

Mr Haughey would dearly love a no-confidence motion to be put down at his meeting. The opposition to his leadership is not yet ready for a full-scale fight. But he is avoiding getting his supporters to table a confidence motion, fearing that he would be seen to be hiding behind the cabinet that would have no choice but to back him to prevent the collapse of the government.

A revolt had been expected for some weeks as fears grew that Fianna Fail's reputation was being put at risk by insider dealing and property speculation involving Telecom Eireann, the national telephone company, and the recently privatised Irish Sugar Company. Public disquiet was also triggered by a controversy over the installation of a drainage scheme across Mr Haughey's 300-acre estate in north Dublin which, opposition politicians say, has increased the value of the property.

This time he may find that he is forced to bite off his remaining leg in the shape of his so-called "golden circle" of business friends.



Leadership battle: Haughey (left), under attack, and O'Rourke (top); MacSharry (above left) and Lenihan, whom Haughey dropped

Advice revised on breast cancer

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN do not need to examine their breasts ritually for warning signs of cancer, but should maintain "a daily awareness" of them, Kenneth Calman, the government's new chief medical officer, said yesterday.

The government's advisory committee on breast cancer screening recommended that women, especially those over 40, should be aware of their breasts in everyday activities such as bathing, showering and dressing, he said.

One party member during the Dublingate affair said: "Mr Haughey has just succeeded in freeing himself by biting off his leg but now finds himself lame and surrounded by dogs baying for his blood."

Mr Haughey did manage to fend off the hounds.

This time he may find that he is forced to bite off his remaining leg in the shape of his so-called "golden circle" of business friends.

Mann prays every day for hostages

JACK Mann, the British hostage freed last month, yesterday sent a message telling the families of those still held in Lebanon to "keep holding on".

Sumie Mann said her husband prayed every day for the early release of Terry Waite and the American hostages, though he had not been in touch with the Waite family since being freed.

Mrs Mann said: "Jackie has asked me to say he is so happy to be out himself and he is praying for the quick release of Terry. He is still thinking about him the whole time and hoping it will be over very soon. People should keep wearing their yellow ribbons until that happens."

She was speaking publicly for the first time since her husband's release. The couple are being looked after in a quiet pint.



Message of hope: Sumie Mann showing her yellow ribbon at yesterday's press conference at Lyneham

Innocent man held for rape sues police

A man wrongly accused of raping an 11-year-old schoolgirl at knifepoint is seeking thousands of pounds in damages.

Neville Lee, aged 38, a miner, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, spent four weeks in Lincoln prison awaiting trial, during which time he was beaten up, sacked from his job and his house was attacked by a mob. A man later admitted the rape. Mr Lee was released, and charges were dropped.

He is now seeking damages from police on the grounds of wrongful arrest and negligence, and from the prison authorities on the grounds that they failed to protect him from other prisoners.

Kristopher Pohner, aged 22, was remanded in custody by Worksop magistrates on Monday, accused of raping the girl and of offences against a young boy.

£1,000 penalty for taking car

An electrician who took a client's car while she was away on holiday and drove it for 700 miles was ordered to pay her £300 compensation for wear and tear. Mark Tipping, aged 20, of Dagenham, Essex, admitted taking the car with our consent, stealing the keys, and driving without insurance. He was fined £700 and banned from driving for six months.

Farmer fined for forgery

A fish farmer was fined £5,000 and given a nine-month suspended jail sentence after admitting falsifying government documents in an attempt to win a planning dispute. Tim Pearcey, of Denmead, Hampshire, altered the date on a letter from the agriculture ministry, but did not realise the letterhead bore the wrong address and logo.

Cancer post

A lectureship in cancer nursing is to be established at Glasgow University as part of a £1 million project launched by the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund in Strathclyde.

Shallow Bath

Dozens of boats on the river Avon were grounded after sluice gates at Twerton, near Bath, jammed open and released millions of gallons of water. River levels fell to less than half their usual depth.

Domino effect

Ron Cassidy, aged 69, of Amble, Northumberland, who was jailed for not paying the poll tax, was released when his local pub paid the tax so that he could play in a dominoes match. His team won.

Recycled news

Edinburgh council is to spend £26,000 setting up a network of recycling banks for newspapers and magazines. It aims to collect up to 100 tons of waste paper a week.

Bomber found

Divers discovered a crashed Wellington bomber when their dinghy's anchor rope snagged on the wreck, off St Brides, Dyfed.

Level best

Enid Reid, of Coughton, Hereford and Worcester, has passed her French A-level aged 88. She is now planning a holiday in Paris.

Fire kills hens

Five thousand battery-farmed hens have died in a fire at a farm in Dalton, Cumbria.

Poll de

Move to organise in Ulster defeated

NIRELAND

Sedgefield to teach

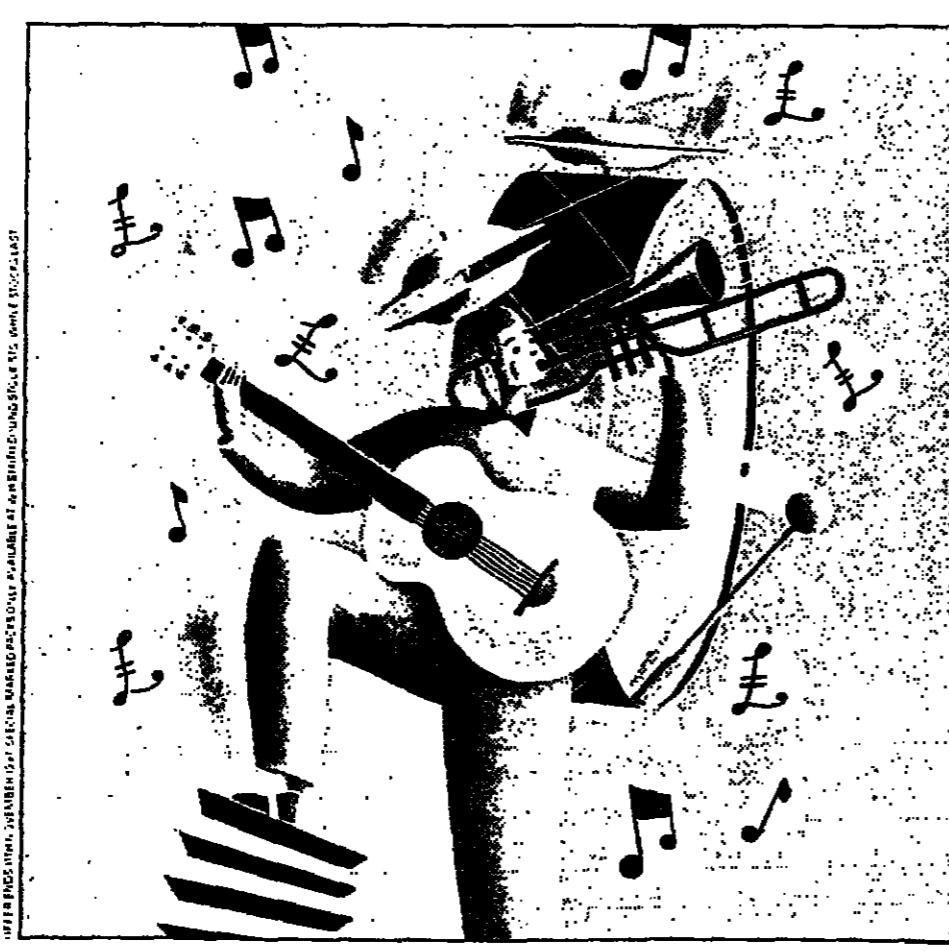
RECRUITING

Debates today

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There are scores of your favourite artists at Smith's. So for everything from Alice Cooper to Vivaldi, pop in and you'll find music so good even the prices are getting down.

There's more to discover at WH SMITH.

Dolphin life-saver passes first test

By KERRY GILL

BRITISH scientists have proved that simple, plastic reflectors fitted to "wall of death" drift nets could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of dolphins every year by bouncing back their own sonar emissions to warn of the hazard.

For the past week scientists from Cambridge, Loughborough and Aberdeen universities have watched and, with hydrophones, listened as hundreds of dolphins in the Moray Firth on the east coast of Scotland have been deterred from swimming into a simulated fishing net, comprised of the small, ovoid reflectors, attached two metres apart to a boom line and held in place by nothing more scientific than socks weighted with sand.

Announcing the results

yesterday David Bellamy, environmental adviser to the Co-op, which has sponsored the experiment, said about one million dolphins were caught and drowned throughout the world every year by drift nets used by the huge tuna fishing industry.

"It is an horrendous way to go, like a human being buried alive, but tuna is the only source of protein for many people in the Third World," he said.

Dr Bellamy said it was impossible to curb the tuna fishing industry and it was therefore essential to devise a method of warning dolphins to steer clear of the "walls of death", that can stretch for up to 50km off Japan and Taiwan.

Even in the North Atlantic, British, French and Irish vessels deployed tuna

drift nets for up to 5km. Margaret Klinowska, of Cambridge University, said dolphins had developed from wolf-like creatures that existed 65 million years ago to be able to withstand the huge tuna fishing industry.

Meanwhile the Co-op, which sells ten million cans of tuna a year, has pledged not to label its product "dolphin friendly" until there is proof that fishermen catch tuna without endangering one of Earth's most intelligent animals.

In spite of an expected EC directive banning their use from next year, French skipper have recently bought drift nets to catch tuna in the eastern Atlantic.

Innocent man held for rapacious poll

LATE in August a worried Roy Hattersley and Gerald Kaufman went to see Neil Kinnock.

The Soviet coup and its aftermath had changed the political climate. After entering the summer in high spirits with a strong opinion poll lead, Labour had been knocked off the television screens and out of the news bulletins and papers.

For the shadow home and foreign secretaries, the general election represents their last realistic chance of returning to government. "Two old men in a hurry", was how a source close to them described them yesterday.

John Major was getting a free run on the airwaves as he travelled the world. Something had to be done to raise Labour's visibility. The Mori poll the next weekend showing the Tories back in the lead was to confirm their worst fears

Labour, anxious to dent John Major's summer lead, has at last begun to put its general election campaign house in order, Philip Webster reports

about the domestic impact of developments beyond their control.

Mr Kinnock swiftly agreed with his senior lieutenants and asked them to join John Cunningham, his campaigns chief, in efforts to give a wider and sharper political direction to Labour's campaigning. Throughout September Mr Hattersley seemed to be high on adrenaline, giving interviews everywhere, holding press conferences, unveiling posters.

The three men have since been meeting regularly to plan tactics in a group that effectively shadows

John Major's backroom "Four Musketeers" team of Richard Ryder, John Wakeham, John MacGregor and Chris Patten that has been co-ordinating the Tory election effort in recent months. Their role has essentially been one of coordination, trying to ensure that the party gives out a distinct message.

From next Monday, when they will be joined by Mr Kinnock to plan post-conference tactics on the next election, they will meet at least three times a week. Often they are joined by Bryan Gould and Robin Cook, other campaigning

experts whose portfolios of the environment and health are key parts of the election battleground. David Hill, the campaigns and communications director, and Philip Gould, head of the shadow communications agency that supplies the party with the vital polling data charting its strengths and weaknesses, are also called in.

As the speculation mounted about a November election, Dr Cunningham and his heavyweight allies, agreeing that the position had to be pulled round quickly, went on to the offensive, exhorting their shadow cabinet colleagues to force the political debate back on to the domestic agenda. The usual calm of the Westminster recess was shattered by a rash of daily press conferences. They decided to use every single broadcasting opportunity to call for a general election.

When news of the election delay swept Brighton on Monday night, the excitement of shadow ministers was palpable. The fightback had succeeded. Despite their public calls for an election, they felt that they had succeeded in their political objective of pushing the government into next year. The haphazard manner of the announcement only added to their delight. Mr Kinnock was surprised not by Mr Major's decision but by its timing.

Dr Cunningham has been holding virtually daily election-planning meetings with his communications team for the past year. When private polls showed him that he was going to win the Monmouth election in May, thus ruling out a June poll and closing down Mr Major's preferred option, he began planning for an October-November poll.

The shadow cabinet meeting two

weeks ago, deliberately elevated into an election summit, drew up strategies for both a November and a 1992 choice. The latter battle plan is now in operation. The delay will give the party more time to boost its election fund, now standing at about £4 million. Another star-spangled West End dinner is planned for next month; the last raised £120,000.

Labour's aim as the months pass will be to push Mr Major right to the wire, hoping to prevent the Conservatives regaining the sort of poll lead that would give him the confidence to go to the country. The longer they can delay him, the better they believe their chances are.

The strategy means that there can be no let-up. One shadow minister said yesterday: "Winning a general election is a marathon, not a short sprint."



Hattersley: a September high on adrenaline

Move to organise in Ulster defeated

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE leadership overwhelmingly defeated moves to overturn the party's ban on accepting membership from people living in Northern Ireland.

With the Conservatives organising in the province and preparing for the first time since partition to fight a general election, a campaign is under way to persuade Labour to set up an organisation there.

The organisers of the Campaign for Labour Representation in Northern Ireland argue that it is indefensible for the party to allow membership from overseas but not from the province. "You can join our party in Baghdad and Basra but not in Ballymena and Bangor," James Harris from Henley said.

The campaigners argue that people should be allowed the opportunity to vote for a party that seeks to govern them and should be allowed to influence Labour party policy; particularly towards Ireland. They also believe that it could help to end the tribal nature of the province's politics.

The British Labour party has never organised in the province, although a separate Northern Ireland Labour party did exist until it was dissolved in 1970. Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, said that when a Labour representative stood in the Upper Bann by-election last year, he had received 0.7 per cent of the vote; by the time the Northern Ireland Labour party folded it had become a Unionist party.

Kinnock promises to put Britain in the first division

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NEIL Kinnock yesterday pledged that a Labour government would put Britain into Europe's first division, and claimed that his party had the policies to do it.

The Labour leader went for gravitas rather than political knockabout in a speech at the party conference in Brighton setting out the programme for a Labour government which was more sharply focused than his past orations. But so rapturous was his ovation nonetheless that he then risked leading the conference into an impromptu fixed-term parliaments.

A fourth term Tory government, said Mr Kinnock, would mean many years more of under-funding for schools and under-investment in training, "years more of falling behind our neighbours and competitors in Europe".

In a speech set constantly in the European context, he said: "People look at the state of our society and they look at our neighbours in the rest of the European community. They see the high standards of training, the quality of child care, the investment in public transport and they ask 'Why not here?'. The answer is that it can change. We can do it here."

He promised sustained economic success to fund higher investment in public services, a government with a sense of purpose which would help Britain to catch up and to compete. This would involve tax incentives to companies to invest in plant and machinery, a phased release of the £5 billion receipts from council house sales to boost house-building, and the modernisation of the trans-

port system with the mobilisation of private as well as public investment.

Listing the great breakthroughs made by British inventors, Mr Kinnock insisted that a way could be found of ensuring that such assets were converted into jobs and success in Britain, not exploited by others abroad. There would therefore be sustained funding for research and a minister of science.

To boost education and training there would be a "proper commitment" to primary schools and improvements in the national curriculum.

Persisting with the theme that Britain had to be lifted up the European league tables by a government willing to accept its obligations to get involved, Mr Kinnock also pledged a crusade against child poverty, to begin with the immediate restoration of the "real value" of child benefit and the launching of a national minimum wage.

Mr Kinnock made the national health service the chief focus of his concentration on the domestic political agenda.

Despite all the Tory protestations that they would not privatise the health service, he declared, that was the way their policies were inevitably leading. Underfunding of the NHS would lead people unwillingly into the purchase of care. Those who voted Labour at the next election would be voting for the building up of the NHS, those who voted otherwise would be voting for the break-up of the NHS.

Mr Kinnock said that Labour would raise more money for efficient public services by ending Tory waste, such as the £18 million a day spent propping up the poll tax, the £5 billion spent "trading" people to opt out of the state care-related pensions scheme and the £5 billion lost each year in tax evasion.

Mr Kinnock promised a freedom of information act

committees every year for part of every council, reform of the House of Lords, an improvement in legal aid and devolution "first to Scotland and then, with consent, to Wales and the regions of England".

There would be a bill of rights.

He ended by declaring that the country now recognised that it was "time for a new direction, time for a government with a sense of purpose".

It was, he said "time to start transforming Britain from the country it has become into the country we know it can be".

Peter Riddell, page 16

Leading article, page 17

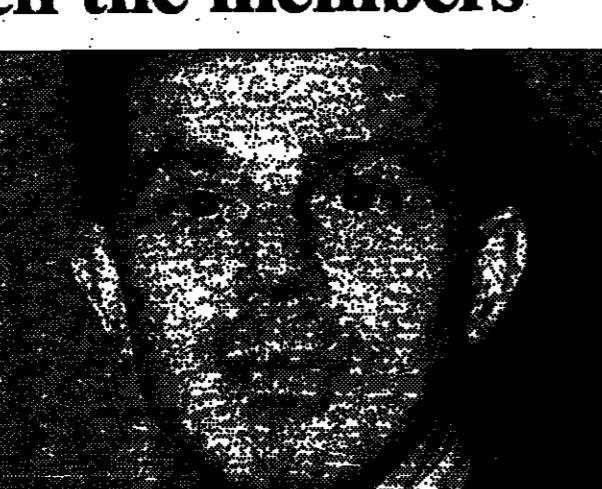
Sedgefield has something to teach the members

SEDFIELD, a County Durham constituency based on old mining villages such as Chilton, Ferryhill and Trimdon, is a beacon of hope for Labour as it tries falteringly to turn itself into a mass membership party.

A bleak financial projection suggesting a £2.5m overdraft after the general election was drawn up at party headquarters during the summer. There have been internal recriminations about the new computerised membership system which one national executive member has labelled a disaster.

The recruitment drive began when membership was 265,000 and falling. At the end of last year it was about 310,000. This year, because of difficulties of registering names on the new computer, tens of thousands have yet to receive their membership cards. In recognition of that, the NEC is to return to the constituencies the power to collect subscriptions.

They are held by Tony Blair, shadow



Blair: delighted by work of the party recruiters

employment secretary, membership has nearly doubled to 1,200 over the past two years and constituency officers reckon they have only started. There are also success stories elsewhere. In Nottingham, Scott Pombert, a student aged 20, enrolled more than 200 new members last year, and took an award as the party's star recruiter.

Their experiences will be used by party officials as they plan a fresh recruitment campaign trying to build on the lessons of the past two years.

In Sedgefield, the story has been one of hard graft, imagination and enterprise. It has been based on the premise that attracting new members is only half the job; retaining them is just as important. To that end they have tried to ensure participation through the one-member one-vote system in all the key decisions. Trade unionists tend only to exercise an influence these days as individual members, not in block votes. They have tried to make membership fun. At the monthly general

debates today

The day's proceedings open with Roy Hattersley, deputy leader, introducing a debate on constitutional reform. That will be followed by a debate on rights and opportunities covering racial attacks, broadcasting, the disabled and fundamental rights. Afterwards there will be debates on law and order and on electoral systems.

In the afternoon, there will be debates on public services, local services, transport and rural areas.

Party starts to move women into seats of power

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR began phasing in constitutional changes designed to ensure that women have at least two-fifths of the places on the party's key decision-making bodies.

Delegates approved rule changes introducing quotas for the ruling national executive committee and the proposed new national policy-making forum. Other changes will raise the proportion of women on trade union conf

mittees, committee meetings, held on Saturday mornings in a local working men's club, administrative business is despatched quickly to enable time for a political discussion. Two hours is usually the maximum. Thereafter they adjourn to the bar for a social chat. Sedgefield has about 450 women members and half the constituency officers are female. Crèches are provided at meetings.

Recruitment efforts begin with the distribution to about a hundred homes at a time of a leaflet carrying a photograph and message from Mr Blair. Then it is down to door-knocking.

A few days later Mr Wilson, John Burton, the constituency party chairman, or other local officials return to ask people whether they would like to join. The response has been enthusiastic. Usually people are enrolled on the spot. Mr Blair said: "We found people who had wanted for a long time to join Labour but thought it was something you had to be invited into."

Neil Kinnock's speech promised to be unique. In keeping with the Labour leader's statesmanlike image, it was decided in advance that for the first time since the Tories came to power in 1979 there would be no mention by name of the prime minister or any of his cabinet.

Such lofty disdain clearly mirrored Paddy Ashdown's pledge at the Liberal Democrat conference not to get involved in a pre-election slanging match exchanging personal insults.

The text of Mr Kinnock's speech was duly distributed to journalists who were left with the relatively simple task of what the trade calls a

yesterday", she added. Other speakers from the floor joined Miss Short in condemning the NEC results, which removed the only woman from the constituency section and left the ruling body with only five women among its 29 members – all in the section reserved for women.

Joan Harpin, a member of the women's subcommittee, said that the NEC result was scandalous. "How can we point the finger at John Major about his having no women in his cabinet when we have an NEC all male, except for women?"

Speakers complained of the slow pace at which the quotas were being implemented. Ms Harpin said that women were becoming increasingly disillusioned by the NEC's attitude towards the reforms.

CONFERENCE DIARY by Roger Wood

Neil misses his chance to show restraint

Neil

misses his chance to show restraint

Next year, as the party pushes for equality for women, conference delegates could find themselves dealing with a Ms Fixit. The field is wide open, but one of the committee's best known members is Margaret Prosser, of the T & G.

As Mr Kinnock was galloping through his conference speech another well known name was clearly not enjoying a winning streak in Brighton yesterday. In the 3.15 at the local track, Mister Major was eleventh out of eighteen runners, adding to an unhappy record of never finishing in the first three in tea races.

Decisions and resolutions

- seeking a review of the new subscription collection method.
- calling for improved maternity rights.
- rejected by 3,457,000 to 1,872,000 a motion calling for women to have power to elect women to the NEC.
- rejected by 4,736,000 to 114,000 a rule change to ensure validity of delegates.
- rejected by 4,722,000 to 116,000 a rule change governing representation of party members after selection.
- approving the NEC report on a national party policy-making forum.
- to retain rule-making powers of the conference; to demand more power for the European parliament;
- and rejected a motion criticising the new subscription collection method.

Yesterday conference passed resolutions:

- calling for improved maternity rights;
- rejected by 3,320,000 to 1,770,000 a motion of more of the party's present members to have power to elect women to the NEC.
- rejected by 4,468,000 to 557,000 a move to set up party organisation in Northern Ireland;
- and rejected a motion criticising the new subscription collection method.

New UN team starts hunt to destroy Saddam's Scuds

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS A new United Nations team arrived in Iraq to start searching for up to 800 hidden Scud missiles, UN arms experts were trying to piece together evidence confiscated during the five-day siege of another UN team in Baghdad last week to identify the mastermind of Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme. UN officials believe that President Saddam Hussein took personal charge of Iraq's nuclear programme seven or eight years ago and compartmentalised it so that very few people would have an overall view. So far, inspectors have failed to find any Iraqi scientist who knows how the whole programme fits together.

Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the UN special commission charged with disarming Iraq, said he believes there is a single figure, possibly a foreigner, who links the uranium-enrichment activity discovered by UN inspectors to the weapons design programme. "I don't want to personalise it by talking about one person,

but all these things must hang together one way or another," he said. "And normally there is someone at the top."

At present, the senior Iraqi nuclear scientist dealing with the UN is Jasfar Dhiab Jasfar, the deputy chief of the Iraqi atomic energy commission.

Mr Jasfar, who studied at Birmingham University, appears to know only about Iraq's attempt to enrich uranium to weapons grade, UN officials say. They hope to glean more information from the 5,000 pages of paper, 19 hours of videotape and 3,000 photographs seized last week.

A 21-member UN team has arrived in Baghdad to begin the search for missing Scud missiles, using UN helicopters. Iraq yesterday gave approval for the UN to fly in three German helicopters from Turkey today to begin an aerial search of western Iraq tomorrow. The UN has agreed to an Iraqi request not to fly over northwestern Baghdad, where Saddam is believed to live and work. The UN team

plans to destroy 28 fixed Scud missile launching sites in western Iraq. Some of the sites, used to attack Israel during the Gulf war, were bombed by allied forces, but the concrete bases remain.

The inspectors also intend to destroy the "supergun" and parts for a larger version found by an earlier mission.

UN officials say the 350mm cannon in the Mosul area was

Husseini to meet Baker on peace

FROM REUTER
IN AMMAN

FAISAL Husseini, the Palestinian leader, said yesterday that he and his colleague, Hanan Ashrawi, would meet James Baker, the American Secretary of State, soon to discuss moves towards a Middle East peace conference.

He gave no date but said the talks would be in either Washington or the Israeli-occupied West Bank. This would be their first meeting since the Palestinian parliament-in-exile decided last week to back Mr Baker's efforts to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks, while falling short of committing Palestinians to attend.

Mr Husseini said he expected the next step to come from Washington in the form of a revised letter of assurances on the form and framework of the talks. He told Jordanian radio that the American reply would allow the Palestine Liberation Organisation to carry out the duties it was asked to do by the Palestine National Council to march towards the peace process, including Palestinian representation at the talks.



Green direction: Robert Redford delivering the keynote address at an award ceremony in Culver City, California, for media promoting environmental issues

Syrian villagers nurture earthly language of Jesus

From ADAM KELLER IN MALOULA, SYRIA

IF OR when there is a second coming, Jesus Christ would be able to find a translator, if required, from Maloula, one of the few places where the ancient tongue of Aramaic is still spoken. The language in which he preached, and in which some books of the Bible were written, has survived in Maloula predominantly because of a strong local sense of tradition.

The shrine of St Takla is one of the oldest holy sites of Christendom. According to legend, the 18-year-old girl from the Greek city state of Iconia converted to Christianity after listening to St Paul preaching in the 1st century. The city's pagan king ordered Takla to be thrown to the lions, but they refused to eat her. He next ordered her to be burnt at the stake – but a mysterious rainbow put out the flames. He then ordered decapitation, but she fled across present-day Turkey to Syria where, tradition says, God split a mountain range, allowing her to pass through and escape pursuit.

Jordan claims scrolls

Amman – Jordan has joined a controversy over the Dead Sea scrolls by claiming ownership of the ancient Jewish manuscripts, found 40 years ago in their territory, to which scholars have been given access at a US research library.

Rawzi Zayyat, the deputy director of the Jordanian antiquities department, declared: "No museum in the world has the right to put them on show without our authorisation." (AFP)

Iraqi-Kurd talks

Nicosia – Talks between the government of President Saddam Hussein and Kurdish guerrilla leaders on autonomy for Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds will resume in Baghdad soon to put the "final touches" to a draft deal, the official Iraqi news agency said. (Reuters)

Khamenei attack

Nicosia – Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Iranian spiritual leader, said the Palestinian parliament-in-exile had sold out Palestinians by welcoming American moves for Middle East peace talks, Tehran radio said. (Reuters)

JERUSALEM NOTEBOOK by Richard Beeston

Disputes clog road of peace

Jerusalem's Route 1 might have stood a better chance of survival in this capital of eternal religious and ethnic rivalry had it not been given the provocative name of Peace Road.

Although the shiny black asphalt dual-carriageway, officially opened by city dignitaries yesterday, might look harmless enough, every inch of its less than one mile of tarmac has been fought over by just about all the key factions in the city.

Moshe Amiraz, the city councillor in charge of transport, said yesterday that he hoped it would live up to its name, despite the political booby traps which refuse to be cleared away by even the most diplomatic city sapper.

The road was intended to help traffic flow from west Jerusalem to Jewish neighbourhoods in the north of the city, whose inhabitants have in the past had to follow a tortuous route through Arab sectors of the city. This exposed them not only to regular traffic jams but also occasional bouts of stone-throwing from Palestinian youths.

The first to complain about the new road were the Arabs, who rightly claimed that some of their lands were expropriated for its construction. Once their objections had been dismissed, right-wing members of the ruling Likud party protested that the route reinforced the "green line", which marked the boundary between Arab east and Israeli west Jerusalem before the Israelis annexed the entire city in 1967.

Their argument, that the supposedly unified city was once again being geographically divided, was successfully dismissed only after Ariel Sharon, the hardline housing minister, intervened. He could, however, do little to dissuade the next group of complainants, the archaeologists who insisted that the road was being

PEACE RD.



complex burial rights. Not surprisingly, once these groups had been assured, one more unhappy lobby sprang up.

The ultra-Orthodox Jews whose neighbourhoods run alongside the western side of the new road claimed that it would violate sabbath laws.

"They have objected to the fact that the road will be used on the sabbath," said a spokeswoman for the Jerusalem municipality. "We have planted trees and constructed acoustic walls along the roadside to minimise the effect, but ultimately they will just have to respect other people's needs."

The showdown on Peace Road could take place this Friday evening when the sabbath begins. The city's police will not be protecting Israelis from Palestinian stone-throwers, but from their own brethren.

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Decay meets Klondike as speculators storm into east Germany



Breuel: encouragement for would-be buyers

INSIDE the grim, grimy grey building where Goering once controlled the Luftwaffe, the atmosphere these days is pure Klondike. The marbled halls and stairways ring with the sound of excited voices and hurried footsteps as speculators pour in to stake a claim for part of the action in the frontier territories of eastern Germany. The building, still daubed outside with a colourful mural extolling the virtues of socialist society, is now the headquarters of Treuhand, the government agency set up to privatise the old communist system by dint of asset stripping. The whole economic structure has to be turned on its head by creating a complex of small businesses to produce the "blooming landscape" promised by Helmut Kohl, the chancellor. This is Treuhand's task.

The task of turning the old East German command economy into a Western model is being helped by official optimism and worker resignation, Ian Murray writes from Bonn

So far it has sold off around 3,400 of the 9,000 businesses. Every day an average of between 15 and 20 more contracts are signed, with investors apparently confident of striking it rich. Would-be developers also have to be ready to wait while the legal processes sort out who owns what piece of property.

These difficulties do not daunt Birgit Breuel, the tall, red-haired Hamburg and Oxford-trained economist, who took over Treuhand last April. She surges tirelessly round the headquarters, encouraging buyers in the belief that all things are

possible in united Germany. "A social market economy can't come about overnight." She believes that workers are now prepared to accept that "a free market economy means unemployment. My impression is that most people understand now that they must work harder for less money than in the west and that they can only reach western standards with pain".

That pain is worth it for Heinrich Birth, great-grandson of the founder of a little interior decorating firm in the northern city of Schwerin, capital of rural Mecklen-

burg-Vorpommern. The shop became an institution but in 1951 the communist regime nationalised the business and the family were given ten minutes to hand over the keys and leave. The day after the wall came down in November 1989, a van loaded with Birth carpets and wallpaper was sent in to start up the business again and two months later negotiations to take over the old family shop began.

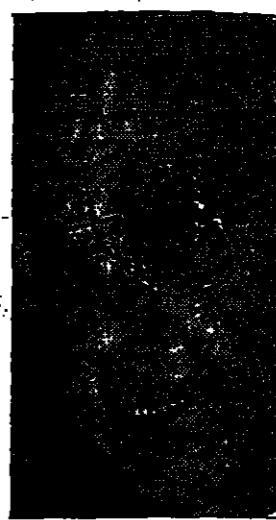
There has to be long-term optimism too at a building company which has been set up at Wittstock in Brandenburg, one of the 500 or so businesses described in Treuhand jargon as an "MBO" (management buy out) where the workforce have formed their own company rather than see outside investors cream off the profits.

The driving force is Uwe Schedel, Just 33 and with only a communist

education and glimpses of western television to guide him, he persuaded two of his workmates to form a private company to hold together the skilled labour force to be ready to take advantage of the building boom that must come.

The first to succeed are the money-lenders, with, for example, Deutsche Bank operating at a profit in depressed Schwerin ever since last April. Nevertheless, only a year after unification even the most remote areas are beginning to feel the effect of the huge cash injections contributed by west Germany's grumbling taxpayers and there is every sign that the east German landscape will begin to bloom before Herr Kohl has to face the electorate again in just over three years' time.

Unemployed army, page 25



Kohl: time still for his own landscape to bloom

Republics start moves for Soviet economic tie

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet republics yesterday took an initial step towards putting together the union's broken pieces by agreeing in principle to form an economic association.

The need for massive Western help in overhauling the Soviet farm sector was underlined by a team of British manufacturers mandated by John Major to examine the food industry. Sir Ronald McIntosh, the delegation leader, said that contrary to conventional wisdom, the Soviet Union's problem lay not just in poor distribution and storage, but also in low output.

Production could be boosted sharply by the application of simple Western technol-

Lubbers licks EC treaty wounds

From GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

RUUD Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, conferred yesterday with Hans van den Broek, his foreign minister, on how to pick up the pieces after EC foreign ministers rejected their draft for federal union by 10-2 on Monday. His government was mauled by yesterday morning's Dutch papers. "One of the worst political blunders ever," thundered the conservative *De Telegraaf*.

But with the return to the Luxembourg treaty draft, the pressure on Britain also returns. Jacques Delors, the federalist president of the European Commission, has treated the whole fiasco over the Dutch text in a lofty "much ado about nothing" manner and pointed out that agreement on several key points is in sight.

The outlines of a monetary union treaty are nearly all agreed. Norman Lamont, the chancellor, plainly believes his officials have helped write a treaty which both keeps Britain in and allows it to stay out. No such flexibility exists in the talks on political union. There has so far been no real meeting of minds - let alone the unanimity which would allow treaty drafting - on several questions of principle.

The EC has not agreed how to handle foreign policy. Thanks to the disappearance of the Dutch text, foreign policy is unlikely to be integrated into the central system. But most EC countries want, or say they want, majority voting in foreign policy.

Britain wants co-operation decided by unanimity. Should the EC have a defence policy and armed forces independent of the United States? Britain, Germany and France have come nowhere near agreeing on this question, which will also confront them at the Nato summit next month.

Britain will probably concede that the EC should start to make policy in areas where Brussels has no law-making power at the moment. Some extension of the EC's power to set community-wide standards for education, health, welfare and transport is likely.

But the extension of majority voting is a far more sensitive issue. On that and on new powers for the European parliament, Britain does not look set to yield very much.

Although the Maastricht summit does not open until December 9, the effective deadline for settling contentious points is the middle of November, so that the treaty text can be completely ready for Maastricht. The Dutch government has scheduled a three-day meeting of EC foreign ministers in the North Sea resort of Noordwijk on November 13. That meeting will decide the treaty's fate.

Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Major's invitation, page 1



First Swedish woman Speaker proposes Bildt to head cabinet

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Speaker of the Swedish parliament formally proposed the Conservative leader, Carl Bildt, as the country's new prime minister yesterday.

Mr Bildt has been negotiating with the Liberal, Centre and Christian Democrat parties on a four-party government to replace the long-ruling Social Democrats, who suffered a crushing defeat in elections on September 15.

Ingered Troedsson, a Conservative, became the first woman Speaker in the history of Sweden's parliament on Monday. The 349-seat Riksdag voted 184-150 to install her in place of Thage Peterson, a widely respected Social Democrat.

The office ranks second after the monarch in Swedish diplomatic protocol and plays an important constitutional role in proposing a prime minister.

A parliamentary vote on Mr

Bildt as the new prime minister is expected tomorrow. He has said he hopes to present a new government and a policy statement to the assembly on Friday.

The new Speaker, proposing Mr Bildt as prime minister, said he intended to form a government of his Moderate party, the Liberal party, Centre party and Christian Democrats.

Together they will have 170 seats in the House, five short of a majority. To pass legislation, they will have to depend on the seven-month-old New Democracy party, which is considered right-wing and has been accused by some

opponents of racism. New Democracy has 25 seats.

The Social Democratic party and its ally, the formerly communist Left party, have 154 seats.

The Speaker said that she had accepted the resignation of the prime minister, Ingvar Carlsson.

• No land talks: Paavo

Yevgeny, the Finnish foreign minister, said that Finland would not propose talks about the return of land it lost

to the Soviet Union in the second world war as neither the Soviet Union nor Russia was ready for such

negotiations.

Mr Susak said that Croatia's response to the ultimatum - the first direct threat by the army against civilians since Croatia's declaration of independence - would again offer talks if the army agreed to leave its barracks and withdraw from Croatian soil.

To date, the use of the Yugoslav air force has been limited. The Croatian forces have some anti-aircraft weapons, including hand-held

Yugoslav army threatens to target civilians

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB

HEAVY fighting intensified in various areas of Croatia yesterday after the authorities in Zagreb dismissed a Yugoslav army ultimatum threatening attacks on civilian targets.

Dubrovnik, sometimes described as "the jewel of the Adriatic", and villages around the historic port city were hit in the flare-up, which observers said was bringing the region closer to full-scale civil war despite a nominal ceasefire negotiated 11 days ago.

The fighting included mortar, tank, artillery, naval and air attacks. Some of the fiercest exchanges took place in the eastern town of Vukovar.

More than 300 army vehicles, predominantly manned by Serbs, arrived in the region on Monday to assist the besieged army barracks there. Among other key areas under fire were the outskirts of Zagreb and the central town of Karlovac.

Gjoko Susak, Croatia's defence minister, angrily rejected the army's claim that it would widen the offensive and retaliate against civilian targets if resistance against its besieged military installations in the breakaway republic continued. "Such an ultimatum Hitler never sent," Mr Susak said after holding emergency talks with Dr Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president. "They are saying we are provoking them. They are bombing from Dubrovnik to Vukovar, attacking with tanks from 50 different places and on the basis of that they send an ultimatum."

He said that the Zagreb government would reply in writing to the Belgrade communiqué, which stated: "For each barracks attacked and occupied the army will destroy vital civilian targets in the town where the barracks is located." A senior Yugoslav general, Andrija Raset, commander of the fifth army district covering Croatia, later said that the high command in Belgrade was ready to order attacks by the air force against factories, electrical installations, shipyards and other targets if there were more attacks on the besieged bases.

Mr Susak said that Croatia's response to the ultimatum - the first direct threat by the army against civilians since Croatia's declaration of independence - would again offer talks if the army agreed to leave its barracks and withdraw from Croatian soil.

To date, the use of the Yugoslav air force has been limited. The Croatian forces have some anti-aircraft weapons, including hand-held

Thatcher inspects Poland

From ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

MARGARET Thatcher arrived yesterday in a Poland of economic extremes, where impoverished pensioners eat cat food while the rich shop at Christian Dior and Benetton.

Miss Thatcher's free market beliefs, fervently applied here by the government, are the focus of election campaigning getting underway. She is expected to show support for her host prime minister, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, visit private companies and encourage young businessmen. Unlike the Princess Royal, who follows a few days later, she will not be inspecting the long-dole queues.

It is Mr Bielecki's bad luck that Mrs Thatcher is visiting a day after swingeing budget cuts have been put into effect. Certainly the chanting teachers marching through Lodz will strike a chord with the former education secretary, once dubbed "milk snatcher Thatcher". Polish teachers have more to complain about than the ending of free school milk. Four classes a week have been cut from the school timetable and all overtime has been cancelled. Teachers' pay has sunk to one million zloties a month, or £57.

Roger Boyes, page 16

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PORLAND STUDIO
STUDIO M
INTERVIEW WITH THE STARS

Skinheads held

BONN - Five British and two German skinheads were arrested at Cottbus, Brandenburg, on Monday night after a young German was stabbed and seriously wounded in a skirmish with right-wing thugs. A state official said the stabbing happened after around 15 skinheads with flick knives and tear gas chased seven young Germans.

Mafia sackings

Rome - The Italian government sacked the administrations of 18 municipalities in the south because they have links to the Mafia. New elections will be held except in Patti, Calabria, where they have been postponed indefinitely because no one dares run against Mafia politicians.

Chaumet change

Yesterday, *The Times* published a report of the trial in Paris of the former owners of the House of Chaumet, the jewellers, and we wish to clarify that the Chaumet brothers are no longer connected with the business. The assets of Chaumet were acquired in November 1987 by Investcorp, the investment bank, and the business is trading successfully under new management.

Geared for safety

Paris - Norwegians edge the Finns by a nose as the most careful drivers in Europe, while Italians are the worst, according to a report released by the French insurers' research centre, the CDI. (AFP)



Counting down: Franz Viehböck, due today to become Austria's first man in space in a joint venture with the Soviet Union, at the Baikonur mission centre yesterday

LIFE has surely changed in Russia when KGB operations are reduced to advertising their services on television. In nightly commercials, a private security firm has offered former KGB officers "experience in the ways of Western intelligence services".

At least, these former guardians of the Soviet state have found work. Thanks to the failed coup and the collapse of the communist state, unemployment has replaced the CIA as the biggest threat in the life of the average officer.

In the past week, President Gorbachev has placed the Moscow area KGB under the direction of Boris Yeltsin's new Russian security service and Vadim Bakatin, the liberal new KGB boss. He has disbanded the old Directorate Z, the section for the "protection of the Soviet

constitution". A KGB source said the department which eavesdrops on telephones would be cut by a third of its workforce. Surveillance would in future be conducted only with the permission of prosecutors. If the new edits are followed, some 20 million informers, an official figure, will lose their part-time jobs.

On Monday, the First Directorate, the elite foreign intelligence wing, was put under the direction of Yevgeni Primakov, a confidant of Mr Gorbachev. His orders are to strip down the bureaucracy of Moscow centre, as it is known to all spy novel readers. Mr Primakov says the old cloak-and-dagger side of the spy business will stay, but the agency will be "democratised and opened as much as possible". Inside the Lubyanka, the vast, yellow-washed fortress

home of the organisation, Lieutenant-Colonel Oleg Tsaryov, the KGB's urban new information officer, said: "Our first feeling was bewilderment when we learnt that the former chairman overstepped the law. Of course it has to be proved in court yet, but we have very bitter feelings about that. Then morale was pretty low for some time. Now it's clear that... the majority of young officers will stay."

The organisation will lose between 20 and 30 per cent of its personnel, he said. According to the colonel, who served as a "journalist" in London in the late 1970s, Mr Kryuchkov acted virtually alone and those lower officers who followed his orders would not be punished. There were, however, a few exceptions. The Russian supreme soviet yesterday voted unanimously to ap-

prove the proscription of Yevgeni Agyev, the KGB deputy chairman who, according to prosecutors, ordered regional commanders to have publication of information harmful to the coup leaders.

Colonel Tsaryov's breezy explanations give little impression of any conversion in the heart of the KGB. Those who pursued dissidents in the old days were just professionals doing their duty and would now turn their hand to other matters.

Concern that the old KGB is being left intact is widespread among Russian democratic reformers. In one of its main news broadcasts, Russian Federation television contrasted the restructuring of the KGB with the way in which the new democracies of Eastern Europe had abolished their communist security services.

Without fear, favour or fee

When the American magazine *Ms.* felt its editorial integrity was being threatened by advertisers' demands, it dropped all advertising and raised its cover price. Melinda Wittstock wonders whether such a declaration of independence could work in Britain

When *Ms.*, the American feminist magazine, published a front-page exclusive on exiled Soviet feminists in 1980, it won three journalism awards. But such journalistic glory, as *Ms.* found to its cost, had little to do with attracting advertisers. According to *Ms.*, a cosmetic company cancelled a scheduled advertising campaign in the magazine because the Soviet women pictured on the glossy cover were not wearing make-up.

A small report in *Ms.* about a US congressional hearing into the alleged carcinogenic properties of chemicals used in hair dyes that are absorbed into the skin also cost the magazine a sizeable portion of advertising revenue, it claims, this time from a manufacturer of hair products.

Even an attempt by Gloria Steinem, the founding editor of *Ms.*, to persuade the president of a leading cosmetics company to rescue the magazine from closure with one year of advertisements for just three or four products, resulted in failure. Ms Steinem says she was told that *Ms.* was not appropriate for the company's products because they were selling "kept-woman mentality".

These revelations were contained in Ms Steinem's tell-all memoir for *Ms.* called "Sex, Lies and Advertising". Ms Steinem, now a consulting editor to *Ms.*, did what no women's magazine editor had ever dared to do before: she named names, exposing a long list of meddling advertisers that often come close to dictating what American women's magazines must and must not write about.

But she could only do it because *Ms.*, then on the brink of collapse as a result of



Safe and sound: Marcelle d'Argy Smith (left), of British *Cosmopolitan*, and Gloria Steinem, former editor of *Ms.*

rise in the cover price from £1.40 to an estimated £6 if all advertising was dropped.

Spare Rib, like *Everywoman*, the UK women's current affairs monthly, has never even tried to compete with mainstream women's magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, *Options* or *Woman* for cosmetics, food or fashion advertising. Both publications are highly critical of what they perceive as some women's magazines' willingness to attract advertisements by avoiding certain issues and running complementary (and complimentary) copy.

"There's no point trying to compete for those ads. It wouldn't work because we would not be willing to give over editorial space to such promotion in place of the serious coverage of women's issues, such as employment and training, most other magazines do not provide," says Chris George, the advertising and business manager of *Everywoman*, which has a circulation of 15,000.

Spare Rib, which survives on the same sort of advertising as *Everywoman*, said, in a joint statement from the collective: "Spare Rib does not tailor its editorial to its advertisers in any shape or form, because this for us is the essence of independent media in a system in which big business calls the shots. This independence clearly limits our advertising revenue, but it



Safe and sound: Marcelle d'Argy Smith (left), of British *Cosmopolitan*, and Gloria Steinem, former editor of *Ms.*

women's magazines has become so institutionalised that it is written into "insertion orders" or dictated to advertisement salespeople as official policy. For instance, she reveals that in America, Bristol-Myer, the parent of Clairol, stipulates that advertisements be placed next

to us, but it never affects our editorial," says Marcelle d'Argy Smith, the editor of British *Cosmopolitan*. "A beauty product has to stand up on its own merits; we just further enlighten our readers."

"Few [advertisers] dare to approach the mighty *Cosmopolitan* asking for special favours. We don't even give our sales team a list of our upcoming features. When you are as successful as *Cosmo* people push you around less," Ms d'Argy Smith denies that *Cosmopolitan* deliberately woos advertisers with supportive editorial.

This month's edition of *Cosmopolitan* has a cover model whose look, we are told, we can recreate using Le Maquillage Clarins. Inside, in between four pages of glossy advertisements for Le Maquillage Clarins, there is a story headlined "Beauty Steps" which asks readers: "Do you want a make-up that's chic for daytime and sleek for evening? Follow our step by step guide if you do." All products used in the makeover are "from the new Clarins collection".

Just the fax

NERVOUS television executives are to be deprived of their chance to recreate the Knightsbridge media circus that traditionally accompanies both the delivering of programme promises and the awarding of 100 franchises. No dramatic entrances and exits from the Knightsbridge offices of the Independent Television Commission will be recorded this month: anxious bidders will learn of their respective fates by fax at 7am on the as yet unchosen day. The move is aimed at preventing winners and losers

Waiting: Richard Dunn of Thames Television

ers from trading on the stock market before the public gets the news. ITV companies and their challengers are bracing themselves for good or bad news on the 15th, 16th or 17th.

Democracy in the lobby

PROPOSALS to create a register of professional lobbyists at the House of Commons, involving only those PRs employed to work for third parties by outside consultancies, would lead to an "erosion of the democratic process" by creating special privileges for some lobbyists and not for others, the Institute of Public Relations (IPR) said yesterday. The proposals, announced on Monday by the select committee on members' interests, do not cover those directly employed by big companies and organisations. Roger Haywood, the IPR's president, said it would be more useful if the select committee were to recommend a registration of MPs' commercial interests rather than devising proposals that will "not necessarily achieve greater openness in the activities of professionals".

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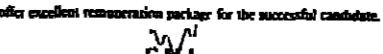
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& BRIEFLY

Insider views

THE Contemporary Interior Design Show opens tomorrow at the new Design and Decoration Building at 107a Pimlico Road, London SW1 (071-730 2353). David Linley and David Hicks join more avant-garde designers such as SCP and Rory Ramsden, and Charles Rutherford and James Codrington, while Space, a new company set up by Tom Dixon, will show experimental office and domestic furniture. The exhibition runs until October 20, and is open Monday to Friday from 10am until 6pm (on Wednesdays until 7pm) and on Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 5pm. Admission is usually £5, including catalogue, but readers presenting this column may bring along a guest free.

Juicy carats

A FULL-LENGTH evening dress in 24-carat gold, a 22-carat gold egg and a 15lb gold nugget found in Brazil are among the unusual and priceless gold artefacts assembled for "Celebration of Gold" launched by Mappin & Webb and the World Gold Council tomorrow. The exhibition, which includes work by leading contemporary designers, will be on display at the Mappin & Webb store in Regent Street, London, from tomorrow until October 19, and then moves to Mappin & Webb in Manchester (October 21-26), Edinburgh (October 28-November 2), Glasgow (November 4-9) and Guildford, Surrey (November 13-23).

The other hand

EVERYTHING designed for left-handed people, from a genuine Swiss Army knife to a T-square and a pruner, is available from Left Handed by Post. Scissors, playing cards and kitchen tools are among the many items in the free catalogue, from Left Handed by Post, Duntish Court, Buckland Newton, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7DE. *Living Left Handed*, by Diane Paul, costs £8.95 including postage from the organisation.

VICTORIA MCKEE

Why some say the holidaymaker must be told more about political temperatures worldwide. Victoria McKee reports

For Dr Chris Ryan, the recent coup d'état in Haiti demonstrates the unpredictability and fluidity of situations which can prove a constant problem for tour operators seeking new destinations and demonstrates the need for continuous care.

But then Dr Ryan is the principal lecturer in tourism studies at Nottingham Business School, Nottingham Polytechnic, and the author of *Tourism, Terrorism and Violence: the risks of wider world travel*, a study recently published by the Research Institute for the Study of Conflict and Terrorism.

He argues that tourism is a political, social, economic and environmental issue, and that tourists should familiarise themselves with as much information as is available on the country they intend to visit — including any illegal political organisations active within it, and their aims and method of operation.

His study, published to coincide with the arrival of the 1992 holiday brochures, lists what he refers to as the "main terrorist groups operating in tourist areas" — 32 organisations from al-Jihad in Egypt to the IRA — and attempts to put some of their objectives into context. "I'm not condoning terrorist action," he says, "but from the viewpoint of a number of terrorists they are seeking to overthrow a government which is in many ways devoted to progress as defined in Western terms, seen as posing a threat to a culture which is valued. Tourism is identified with the government processes... and is seen as symbolic of Western... imperialism. But you cannot expect tourists to take a more responsible attitude if they are not aware of the issues and inadvertently aggravate them."

"I'm not saying 'don't go' — I'm saying that people should be in a situation where they can make an informed decision."

"The situation changes too rapidly to be included in holiday brochures which are printed so far in advance," he says. "But there is no reason it could not be made available at the time of booking."

Keith Betton, the head of corporate affairs of the Association of British Travel Agents

(Abta), says: "Abta members damned well ought to give this sort of information to customers. But we can't force travel agents to give out this information, although by law in 1993 they will have to."

Information is freely available from the Foreign Office and is disseminated automatically to members of Abta, Dr Ryan says.

A telephoned enquiry to the Foreign Office's travel advice unit about travel to Haiti yesterday afternoon brought the advice: "Pending formal advice from the port our geographical department agrees we should advise people to defer travel to Haiti for the time being." At Club Med, one carrier sending visitors to Haiti, a press officer, asked what the company was advising potential tourists yesterday, said that she had no idea. After some consultation she came back to report: "Our transport manager has heard sales have been suspended. But Haiti is not a major destination."

Dr Ryan takes pains to reassure that "the likelihood of tourists being attacked by terrorist action is, on a global scale, quite small. The risk of someone being shot or falling victim to a terrorist action as a percentage of the total number of people who travel is extremely small — less than .01 per cent."

The risk of being involved in a hijacking has lessened considerably since the Gulf war, he says, "because now the Arab terrorist groups involved are being restrained by their governments because of the peace processes and changing attitudes of the US to Israel and Syria and Iran". And groups such as Italy's Red Army, which captured headlines and hostages in the 1980s, are now defunct, he says, "but in Italy as a tourist you're running other risks such as petty theft."

A number of terrorist groups have a policy of deliberately attacking tourist areas. Dr Ryan says — "such as the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) in Peru — which the FCO said 'is very dangerous indeed and any foreigner falling into its hands is likely to be killed' — the National Front for the Liberation of Corsica, Eta (in Spain) and Terra Liri (Spain), the Catalan separatist group. "So if you wish to go

'People should have the information to allow them to act responsibly'



Holidays in hell? Crowds at an election rally surround a poster of President Aristide of Haiti, who was toppled in a coup this week

to countries where these groups are operating, go with your eyes open," he says. Since the actions of many groups are designed to publicise their political demands — "an example of this might be the Etacampaign of bombs placed on the beaches and in the hotels of the Costa del Sol between 1985 and 1987," Dr Ryan points out — some would argue that a report such as his is playing into their hands. "I know some will say, 'if you let this information out aren't you doing the terrorists' job for them?'" he says. "But knowledge is power and people should have the information to allow them to act responsibly."

Dr Ryan criticises holiday insurance policies which refuse to cover expenses resulting from war or terrorist activities threatened or actual... and believes that travellers would be prepared to pay higher premiums.

He also finds it understandable that some "host societies" can become disenchanted with tourism. He cites the example of Goa "because the hotel was having an effect on the water supply of local people."

Countries with active political unrest are not the only danger spots, of course. The report mentions the British tourists (David Creaser in 1990, Rose and John Hayward in August 1991) shot in Miami. "In many cases holidaymakers have greater risks from other sources such as muggings or diseases, such as Aids," Dr Ryan says. "And don't forget muggings by British tourists: there were as many as 200 British lagerlovers spending a night in the cells at the height of the summer season on the Costa del Sol."

Marion Brackenbury, the chairman of the Tour Operators Study

Group, which represents 18 of the largest tour operators in the UK, including Thomson, and Owners Abroad says: "It is interesting that the new EC directive on package travel — new regulations expected to be drafted and published by the end of this year to come into effect in 1993 — will include the travel agent having to give passport, visa and health information as well as information about any set of circumstances in the country of destination before the contract to travel is made. So it would seem as if the need for greater knowledge has already been recognised."

"But I think it's important for each tourist destination to decide what role tourism should play in their community, and having decided that they can plan for it so that tourism can be sustainable and balanced."

But you have to be very careful about your arguments: in Goa

there is plenty of water, just a shortage of piped water. The villagers didn't have proper supplies organised."

Dr Ryan says he was "aware of some discussion on the EC directive", although it is not mentioned in his report, and would welcome it, as he has welcomed previous EC initiatives tightening tourist industry regulations. "Although in my opinion it doesn't go far enough and the travel industry can't just say it's the responsibility of the host country."

And where did the man who

knows more than most about the risks of world travel choose to holiday this summer?

"I had a few days in South Wales," Dr Ryan says, "which was safe except for the sewage." North Wales with its Welsh Nationalist movement, he agrees, might have been marginally more risky.

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A film festival highlights some immature and entertaining obsessions

Not in front of the adults



Sharp focus: a Holmefield pupil at work on *Bin Ghosts*

£60,000 sponsorship this year.

The range and quality of this year's screened entries justifies CRS's confidence.

A school that has regularly entered films for the festival is revealing.

Environmental issues are among the most

important, with young people

explaining the ravages of

pollution from first-hand

experience, as in *Six Miles from Bangor* (Lurgan College,

14 to 16-year-olds), as well as

examining global issues, as in

Deforestation — Do You Know

What It Means! (Thornton

Upper School, Bradford, 13 to

14-year-olds). This overlaps

with war, a recurring theme

that reflects concern about the

Gulf war and its environmental

consequences.

Bin Ghosts was made at the

Museum of Photography,

where studios and equipment

are made available for educa-

creative skills, and some students who arrived at the school at the same time as we started are going on to higher education in film and media studies as a result of film-making here." This year's Maltby offering includes *Riddle-Me-Ri*, a drama in which a car accident victim has visions in hospital.

Aimation seems to be a favourite technique with young film-makers. *Naughty Danny and the Sweets* (Blanche Nevile Primary School, London, eight to ten-year-olds) shows how simple animation can be used to excellent effect. We never see the face of Naughty Danny than his head and close-ups of his cavernous mouth into which sweets and biscuits disappear with alarming rapidity, until his teeth have turned yellowish-green. A shimmery toothbrush and a plump tube of toothpaste, both with gyrating pipe-cleaner arms, come to the rescue. Never was a goody-goody message delivered with such delicious wit.

Not all the films are in English, but it is regional British languages such as Irish and Gaelic rather than the language of ethnic minorities which feature. There is a Russian film, a late entry by Moscow teenager Vladimir Beliaev, which offers a fascinating first-hand pavement view of life on the barricades around the White House during the recent coup attempt.

Back home, the raw deal that the handicapped and homeless get are examples of the social concern some films show, while others are simply inventive one-offs. *The Fly Shortcut to a Nightmare* (Fins with Guts, Liverpool, 19 to 21-year-olds) is one of these. The star, Bruce, lands on a sausage roll left over after a party. "It makes you never want to eat another sausage roll again," says Nigel Hamilton, the festival organiser. Bruce's friend Bert, meanwhile, has unfortunately been skewered with a cocktail stick and decorated with a glass cherry. Bad luck, Bert.

Elizabeth Hilliard

• National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Princes View, Bradford (0274 727488 — festival enquiries noon-4pm). Tickets are £2.50 for one of nine 90-minute screening programmes, £1 for each subsequent screening programme. Workshops are free but must be booked.

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TELEVISION

Not a real doll

TAKE an S, take an I, take an N, D, Y — and what have you got? Well, nothing special really. Just a rather tacky little doll that miraculously represents the aspirations of every little girl in Britain between the ages of four and nine, and therefore costs the nation's mystified parents £7 million a year. "Do you really want this Cindy wardrobe?" "Yes." "Trust me, darling, it's in the worst possible taste." "What do you know about it?"

Last night's "Cindy at 30" (the second half of Channel 4's arts programme *Without Walls*) was a half-joking half-serious look at Cindy's brilliant career since 1961, presented by Sandi Toksvig. Manufacturers were interviewed, little girls market-



Questioning Cindy fans: presenter Sandi Toksvig

tested, and Cindy's inadequacies as a role model were ruthlessly exposed. This busy, leggy air-head devotes her life to having a good time, and getting in and out of clothes fastened with poppers. If she isn't skiing, she's playing tennis, driving a jeep. Her wardrobe is full of uniforms from all the jobs she has tried. "She is only 17 or 18 years old," said one of the manufacturers. "She still doesn't know what she wants to do."

But her main aspirations, according to her latest manufacturer Hasbro, are well defined. She wants to be a ballerina, a princess or a bride. And we will notice — now we come to think of it — the absence of outfit denoting her as an MP, barrister or district surveyor. Toksvig asked a little girl whether there was more to life than the dream of princess-bride-ballerina, and the little girl said thoughtfully yes, you could be someone who tried to save the rain forests. "And do you think Cindy is the sort of girl who would try to save the rain forests?" "No," said the little girl, "because she's too small."

I thought this showed great good sense. In fact, the image of a 12-inch doll hurtling herself in front of South American chain-saw gangs will remain with me for quite some time. Is Cindy so powerful? I rather agreed with the vox-pop interviewee who said that the appeal of Cindy was not her "aspirations" but her teensy-weensy clothes. This role-model stuff needs to be put in context. After all, for every sparkling Hippodrome outfit Cindy acquires, the child does get to witness some rather bizarre real adult behaviour, when an apparently responsible parent shells out proper hard-earned money for tiny scraps of cloth.

LYNNE TRUSS

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ARCHITECTURE

Master whose mettle is galvanising

Nicholas Grimshaw, the high-tech wizard who took the Venice Architectural Biennale by storm last month, talks to Marcus Binney

His latest buildings signal Nicholas Grimshaw as the coming heir to such great engineer architects of the last century as Paxton and Brunel. He has just won the competition for the Berlin Stock Exchange. The frame of next year's British Pavilion at the Seville Expo is already in place, and the first trusses of his Waterloo channel tunnel terminus are due to arrive on site within days.

A Grimshaw building is recognisable not just by its sophisticated engineering but the predominant use of metal throughout. Not only are the main structural elements steel rather than concrete, but the outside cladding and inside fitting-out are almost always in metal too.

Grimshaw emphasises that "our concern is to achieve real quality. Our buildings are designed to last as long as anyone wants them to last.

The roof of Waterloo is in stainless

steel for longevity, not the usual crinkly tin, so should last longer than the Victorians."

His office staircase, he says proudly, is the first all-metal example in London. It looks as if it were designed to fold up into the tail of an airliner. What distinguishes it is the exquisite quality of the detail: no crude bits of welding, no discoloration around the joints and no visible screws. The handrails and wires are honed and polished like a bronze sculpture in an art gallery.

"It's detailing that interests me. You won't find a good building anywhere which isn't well detailed, however detailed, however far back you go."

It's detailing that interests me," he says with conviction. "You won't find a good building anywhere which isn't well detailed, however far back you go." But for all the artistry and craft, he takes pride in using standard industrial components. "We try to reduce each job to a small number of simple elements. You can't re-invent the wheel with each project. The stair here is a combination of things anyone can buy and parts we've made." They made a point of putting it together with their own hands. The stair is supported on two diagonal yacht masts. The treads fit into the slots for the sails. They are standard metal grates capped at the ends. "Everything is clamped," he explains. "We haven't had to drill a single hole."

Downstairs, staff are at work on large computer screens on the Seville Pavilion. "Climate is the key. I was determined to minimise dependence

on air conditioning. After all, people have lived in Seville for thousands of years using shade and water to make everyday life reasonable."

With a temporary exhibition building, the best form of cooling — thick, thick masonry walls — was out of the question. So instead, the west front, which catches the full impact of the afternoon sun, is entirely constructed of massive water tanks, as thick as a castle wall, to minimise heat gain. The east front is cooled by a continuous curtain of water ("240 cubic metres recycled each hour," an assistant calculates). But the sun goes off this front soon after 11, so evaporation will be kept to a minimum. The sun is kept off the roof by a series of free-standing "sails" which contain solar panels that, on a very hot day, can provide all the energy needed to operate the water.

Boats also provide inspiration for his new building, now rising above Plymouth for the *Western Morning News*. "Ship shape for voyage into the future", "New flagship bristles with technology" proclaim the paper's headlines.

The ship illusion, obviously appropriate to Plymouth, is convincing because the walls curve out gracefully towards the top as well as narrowing to the front. The expense, work out the immensely complicated geometry required when building on a curve."

Grimshaw's fascination with engineering was first inspired by one of his tutors at Edinburgh. "Nevertheless, you don't learn in an architectural school, but by plodding round factories. The great thing is to watch the machine at work and then ask the operator what more it can do. If it's making car door panels, I'll ask what the biggest radius is that it can extend to."

He differs sharply from those architects who argue that architecture is pure space and nothing more. "Alvar Aalto was a marvellous master of space but he was also a master of materials."

For Grimshaw, structure and materials are the key. "Gothic cathedrals show a deep understanding of structure. They aren't bits of decoration but real buildings of enormous strength. I feel strongly that the way things go together is the key to architecture."

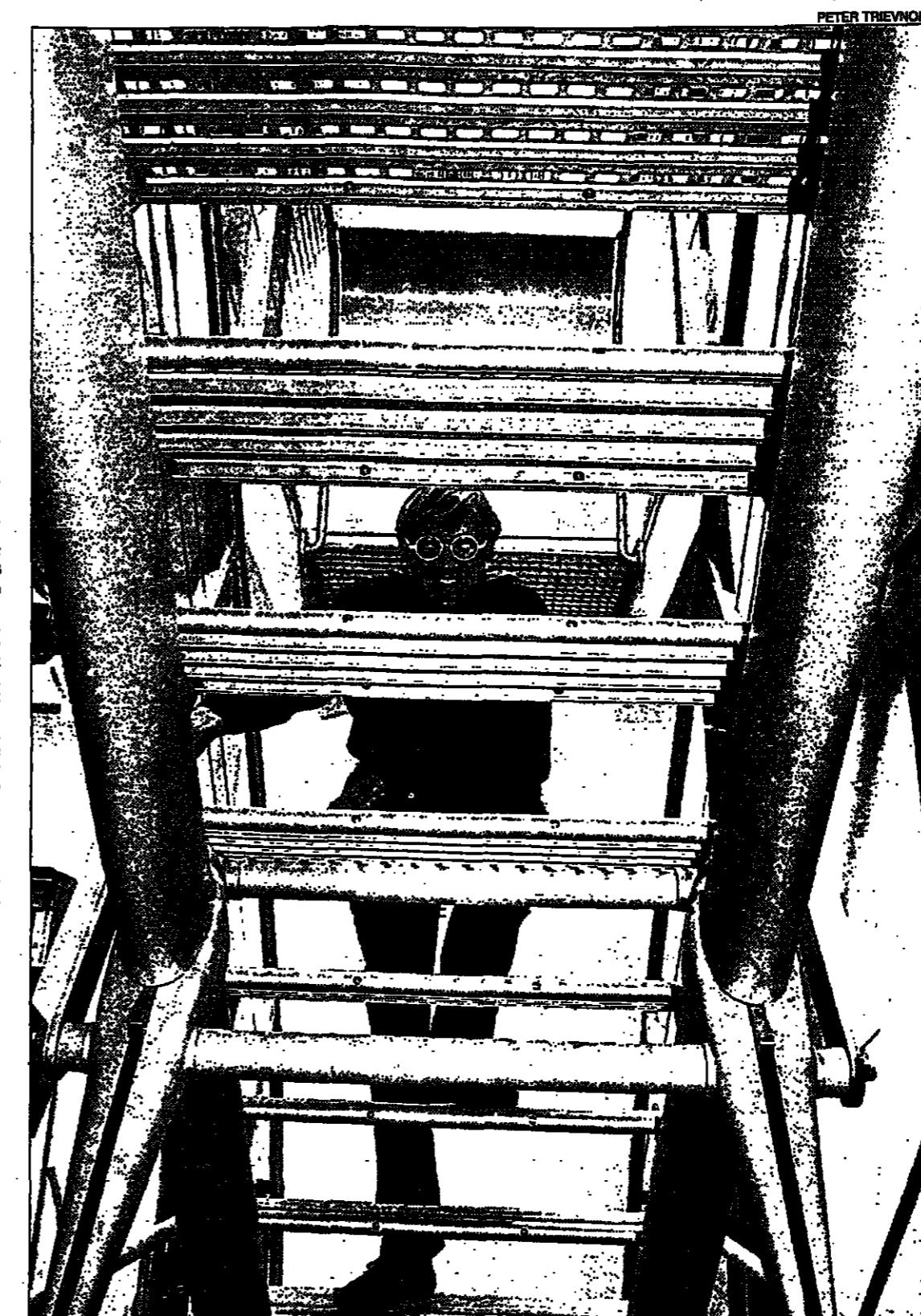
Like many architects today, he hates stilted labels. "The final blow came when I heard Frank Lloyd

Wright described as the first Post-Modernist." He feels there has been a consistent strain in his work since he began in 1965. "From the outset, the use of industrialised materials and components has been important to our design." A ten-storey block of flats was entirely clad in ribbed anodised aluminium in 1970, when "the rest of the world was still building pre-cast concrete housing blocks."

Throughout, he has worked closely with top engineers such as Peter Rice of Ove Arup at Plymouth, Tony Hunt at Waterloo and the new rising stars Whitby and Bird at Berlin.

His latest scheme — highly acclaimed at the Venice Architectural Biennale — is a theoretical project for an airport, clearly done with an eye to Hong Kong. This has the arched roofs and flowing spaces of Saarinen's Dulles Airport at Washington DC. But once again it receives new drama from being built in a continuous horseshoe.

Unquestionably one of the great breakthroughs of late 20th century architecture is the new ability to build on a curve without sharply increasing the expense. This has made practical what for previous generations had to remain a paper dream. Nicholas Grimshaw, the wizard of high-tech, is at the cutting edge of this new adventure.



Architect's pride: Nicholas Grimshaw with his all-metal, hand-crafted staircase, the first in London

ARTS REVIEWS

Paul Griffiths on the continuing *Ring* at Covent Garden; plus

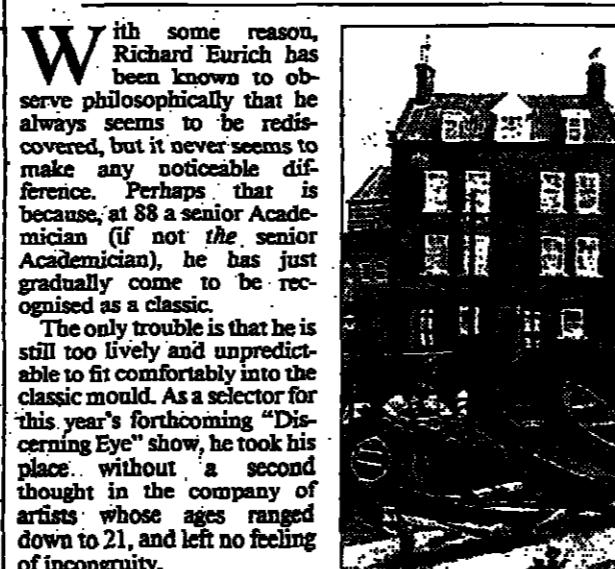
London's latest theatre assessed by Benedict Nightingale

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EXHIBITION

Nothing missing in action

John Russell Taylor admires the wartime paintings of British Royal Academician Richard Eurich



Detail from one of his more

recent works: *Robins Hood's Bay in Wartime*

is pithy in it, and a kind of

terrible beauty.

Other Dunkirk pictures give more of the human detail; this is very much a war that involves people as well as machines. Throughout the rest of Eurich's war, that remains true. Pictures such as the apocalyptic *Night Raid on Portsmouth Docks* or the intensely dramatic *Rescue of the Only Survivor of a Torpedoed Merchant Ship* need to be first taken in as a whole, then read detail by detail, at which point incidents such as the wind-blown children on the cliff-top become noticeable. Some of the pictures have a telling starkness, like the *Survivors from a Torpedoed Ship*, while others, like *Fortresses over Southampton Water*, with its crisscrossing vapour trails against a dazzling blue sky, blossom unpredictably into painterly opulence.

This, finally, is the key to the whole show, if not to Eurich's whole career. Whatever his subject, he remains first and foremost a painter. A painter rich in quirky human observation, but one whose ultimate allegiance is to the play of light and shade before him, constantly changing the ever unchanging patterns of nature which take no more detailed note of human splendours and miseries than the rainbow which floats imperceptibly over *The Ship Inn, Weymouth*. This is classic English painting, and there is nothing imperial or warlike about it, wherever tribute may currently be paid to it.

• Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1 (071-416 5000). Daily 10am-6pm, until January 12. General admission £3.30, concessions £1.65, free Fridays.

Detail from one of his more

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BRIEFING

Wright winner

PETER Wright, director of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, has won this year's Digital Premier Award, the richest single award for dance. He plans to use the £30,000 prize money to commission a new ballet from the young choreographer Oliver Hindle, which will be premiered next year. At a ceremony at the National Theatre yesterday, Wright was presented with a cheque by Geoff Shingles, chairman of the computer giant Digital Equipment Company, sponsors of the award.

Czech appeal

A PLANNED overseas tour by the venerable Huddersfield Choral Society is going ahead this weekend, despite the collapse of the air carrier that was taking it to Czechoslovakia. The Society had chartered a plane from Trans European Airways — its collapse has cost the group more than £17,000. Despite this setback, it has decided to fly to Czechoslovakia for a concert on Saturday at Bratislava, and one in Brno on Sunday, part of an international music festival. The choristers are passing round the hat; anyone wanting to contribute to their emergency appeal can contact Peter Sunderland on 0924 362081.

Prize in site

KEN LOACH and Bill Jesse's building site comedy, *Riff-Raff*, continues its triumphant progress after being named joint winner of the Critics' Prize at Cannes (for Best Film outside of competition), the film has been nominated for the European Film Awards, to be presented at the DEFA studios, just outside Berlin, on December 1. Nine other films are competing for European Film of the Year.

Last chance...

ICE-T is the tough-talking dude from Los Angeles who invented gangster rap. His hugely successful albums open a window on the twilight world of American urban "realities": drugs, prostitution and gang violence. He winds up his British tour at Goldiggers, Chippenham (0249 636444) tonight; Junction, Cambridge (0223 412600) tomorrow; Portsmouth Polytechnic (0705 819141) Friday; and the Marquee, London (071 437 6603) on Saturday.

Notes from the grave

Richard Morrison on some newly finished works by the masters

Last night it happened again. A mere mortal — in this case, an Australian pianist — had the temerity to take an unfinished morsel by a great composer, add new bits, and present it as a whole. In this case Tchaikovsky was the victim, and his so-called "First Piano Sonata" was the fragment. The practice of completing torsos has grown into an industry; a generation of academics is paying off mortgages on the backs of geniuses who are no longer around to say no.

In recent years curious music-lovers have experienced such imaginative fictions as "Beethoven's Tenth Symphony" and "Tchaikovsky's Seventh". Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony has, of course, been finished many times. Mahler's "Tenth", completed by the British scholar Deryck Cooke, is now practically a commonplace of the concert hall, and Mozart's Requiem has been finished more times than *The Times* crossword: music shops are bulging with rival "completions", or (the last word in authenticity) "incompletions".

A cynic might point out that there is money to be made, in this of all years, from publishing yet another "new" version of Mozart's Requiem. Suddenly, the publisher owns the copyright to Mozart's most popular choral work! But not all completions are motivated by greed or gimmickry. Sometimes there is a genuine desire to get a masterpiece played. The tidy-minded Rimsky-Korsakov, for instance, spent years sorting out the hideous mess of scrawled manuscripts left by his alcoholic friend Mussorgsky. He must have felt like a newspaper sub-editor making sense of copy from a notoriously tired reporter. But had he not persevered, the manuscripts of *Pictures from an Exhibition* and *Boris Godunov* would have ended up as fire-lighters.

Franco Alfano added the closing bars to *Turandot* (which Puccini neglected to complete before peggling out), although when Toscanini performed it he usually paused melodramatically at the point where "the master laid down his pen". Such stories fascinate us. Here is an ordinary man struggling to fathom genius — which, by definition, will always tend to take the uncharted path. Here, too, is the sleuth sifting through clues in the dead man's desk. What does that squiggle really signify? Is that an intended key-change, or an ink-blot? And here, most deliciously of all, is a whiff of the supernatural: the feeling that the living are carrying out the unrealised wishes of those beyond the grave.

Would the composers have wanted it? Not all were as easy-going as Sir Arthur Sullivan, who after finishing an opera generally tossed it to a pupils for the boring task of constructing the overture. The dying Elgar, by contrast, left that nobody would "understand" his sketches for a Third Symphony. They are indeed too skimpy for reconstruction, even by the most enthusiastic of American university professors. Sibelius saved scholars much trouble by burning his incomplete sketches; unfortunately, he went a little too far and burnt most of the pieces he had finished as well.

Thus do composers confound posterity. But then, many of them had no qualms about tampering with each other's work. Handel, according to one charitable contemporary, "took other men's pebbles and polished them into diamonds". That is one way of describing theft. I suppose Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, as "arranged" by Benjamin Britten, sounds in places suspiciously like original Britten. Perhaps the completions have the right idea. I just hope they don't put arms on Venus de Milo.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Dear Barrington Hill, I know you will forgive my writing to you out of the blue, since I do so in reply to yours out of the blue of the 25th ult; but dare I hope that you will also forgive my explaining to the general reader that you are not, as your name might beguile them into imagining, either a stop on the Northern Line or a little-known Civil War skirmish, but the general manager of American Express? For general readers are notoriously ill-informed, which indeed is why you wrote to me in the first place. You wish to rectify this, at least, in 850 cases, at that.

You will recall that your letter offered me "the greatest writing of the last 3,000 years, housed in a beautiful revolving bookcase specially commissioned by American Express, each one hand-embossed with the initials of the purchasing cardholder." You did this because, as you were sure I would appreciate, great writing is the foundation of our civilisation. You then enquired whether I myself sometimes wished I were better-read — "when, for example, someone at a party refers to something as Orwellian or Kafkaesque, or when a business acquaintance refers to the economic theories of Adam Smith or Keynes".

Barrington, you ask a straight question and you deserve a straight answer. Certainly, I sometimes wish I were better-read; but never when someone at a party refers to something as

In his speech yesterday Neil Kinnock started to sound like a potential prime minister; writes Peter Riddell

Kinnock: a leader at last

RIDDELL ON WEDNESDAY

Neil Kinnock and Labour are starting to look like possible election winners, at last on competitive terms with the Tories. They have begun to inject some spark into their appeal. Listening to Mr Kinnock yesterday, it was no longer impossible to imagine him in Downing Street. And the Tories must take some of the blame. The Conservative attack of the past month have got under the skin of Labour leaders.

Labour has been in danger of sounding boring. In their drive to banish all the bad memories of the late 1970s and early '80s, party leaders have been making safety an excessive virtue. It has obviously been necessary for Mr Kinnock to offer reassurance that a Labour government would be fiscally prudent, but that is never going to be enough to win an election. Margaret Beckett saying no to big spending may calm the teenage scribblers in the City, but is not going to attract many housewives in the margins. In any contest of respectability, Neil Kinnock and Labour will lose

to John Major and the Tories. In starting to act like a potential prime minister, Mr Kinnock has suppressed his natural ebullience and occasional incoherence in interviews. He has struggled for eight years to bring his party back from near-disintegration to appear a plausible alternative government. Designer pragmatism has replaced undisciplined dogmatism. Tony Benn and his followers have been pushed to the fringes, electorally unpopular policies have been dropped, and an effective shadow team has been created. But Mr Kinnock is still relentlessly attacked by the Tory tabloids, patronised by the pundits (and some of his own colleagues), and suffers low personal ratings. Consequently he has been defensive and prickly.

The Tories have been rather

weaknesses. In part, Mr Major is now paying the price for allowing speculation over a November election to run as long as it did before it was clumsily ended on Monday. Conservative Central Office's non-campaign campaign — daily press conferences, posters and the like — forced Labour to respond. Chris Patten's taunts about Mr Kinnock and Labour goaded the party, as one shadow cabinet member told me yesterday.

There have also been some Tory own goals, as posters asked "Who runs Labour?" and announced that Labour's conference is in Brighton. Most people to whom I spoke thought they were adverts for Labour, since

they missed the attacks at the bottom.

Labour has begun to answer the question "What do they believe in?" There may no longer be any great ideological differences between the parties, but there are policy differences reflecting the interest groups and regions on which Labour relies. Mr Kinnock and Mr Major are offering competing versions of welfare capitalism, but the accents are different. And these were the differences Mr Kinnock underlined yesterday by emphasising the party's education and training, health and industrial policies.

Mr Kinnock offered an updated version of Harold Wilson's famous 1963 "white heat of technology" speech. That en-

thused the party and was described at the time as "excellent" by Tony Benn. Mr Kinnock's theme of "up with the best in Europe" does not have quite the same ring, but it may project Labour as a forward-looking party. The Tories still sound ambiguous about Europe.

There were many echoes of the Wilson of about 1963-4 in the Labour leader's speech. I could easily imagine the old trooper saying "We must make Britain an innovation-driven economy. We must do it with sustained funding for research and with a Ministry for Science." There were similar hints of the 1960s in the references to additional growth rather than higher taxes in paying for better public services.

But if the themes were cautious and familiar, Mr Kinnock presented them in a way that excited party supporters in a way not seen

for many years. Other shadow cabinet members have also recognised the need to break away from the recent restrained formula. On Monday both Gordon Brown and Tony Blair roused the conference with sharp attacks on the Tories over mysterious large political donations by foreign businessmen and over big pay rises for top executives.

Mr Kinnock's strongest argument for a change of government is not that Labour in office would be able to change Britain very much in the short-term — disappointed hopes are much more likely — but that the Tories do not deserve a fourth term because of their record. What Labour needs is some no-nonsense populism, attacking the Tories over their help for the rich, the poll tax, health service changes and the recession. There have been signs over the past couple of days that Labour realises that it must stir the frustrations and anger of the electorate if it is to win.

Next week Mr Major will have to justify a fourth term. He has a fight on his hands.

Mrs Thatcher, visiting Poland, will find workers restive from the growing pains of capitalism, reports Roger Boyes

Can they conjure up a market?

Mrs Thatcher may be out of favour at home but for East Europeans, she is still the warrior queen who brought the walls of communism tumbling down. In Poland she is being deployed by the Solidarity government, which faces an election next month, to boost its increasingly unpopular free-market policies.

But after two years or so of exported Thatcherism, her philosophy is just a little tarnished. There are still true believers — among them the Polish premier, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, his finance minister, Leszek Balcerowicz, and the Czechoslovak finance minister, Vaclav Klaus — but their numbers are dwindling.

When Mrs Thatcher stirred the crowds in Gdansk in 1988, with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa at her side, she did not say it would be like this: with unemployment at 1.6 million and rising fast, soup kitchens and humiliating poverty.

Some of the shocks were expected. Inevitably the trade union movement was going to be shredded. In Czechoslovakia and Hungary, the unions are in any case tainted by communist collaboration and condemned to the political margins, but in Poland, the breaking of Solidarity as a trade union still causes pain. The government is nominally Solidarity-based, yet the unions have less influence than unions do in Britain.

Mrs Thatcher, who today does the rounds of Poland's privatised companies, retains a sentimental attachment to Eastern Europe. It was her last big foreign policy idea. First there was the ideological war against communism. Then, when communist rule

collapsed, her ministers shrewdly cobbled together a know-how fund which enshrined that most Thatcherite principle: that people should be taught how to help themselves.

However, it is plain now that Thatcherism was not suitable for export, at least not in quite the Meccano-kit form that East European governments adopted. The huge problems facing the post-communist world in 1989 were dramatically different from the economic difficulties that Britain faced in 1979.

It took Mrs Thatcher's government 12 years to privatisate 50 state concerns, but the East Europeans have to privatisate thousands of companies, the great bulk of their industry, at top speed. Hungary, which is the most advanced of the economies, has opted for direct sales, mainly to foreign investors. So far, however, of the 10,000 shops and restaurants up for sale, barely a hundred have been sold. Fifty other businesses have been privatised, 110 are close to it, but heavy industry is still overwhelmingly in state hands.

"People thought that privatisation was just a matter of hanging out a 'For Sale' sign," moans Lajos Bokros, president of the Budapest stock exchange. Poland will be lucky to meet its target of privatising 20 companies by the end of the year.

Both Prague and Warsaw have devised voucher schemes to speed things along, but there is no meaningful property law, and no way of establishing who has the title to what. Is the state entitled to sell land and property that it confiscated under communist rule? How can assets be valued when there are no pro-

per book-keeping or auditing procedures?

The vulgar side of the Thatcher revolution — the spawning of yuppies, crooked bankers and brokers, an obsession with personal wealth and its display — is now in full flow in central

Europe. White sports cars wholly unsuitable for the harsh winters are double parked outside Warsaw's new private schools, and fashionable bars. Such display is difficult for many workers to stomach, yet seems an essential part of a capitalist revival.

The real travesty of the Thatcher revolution, however, has been brought by those former communist managers who are buying up state companies that have been deliberately undervalued and converting their power into wealth. None of the evangelists of Thatcherism anticipated quite how quickly this would happen. The workers have been left behind by the East European market reforms.

The apostles of the Thatcher revolution underestimated the problems of introducing radical market reform in societies with only imperfect or weak democratic institutions.

Some politicians now argue that the true model should be sought not in Britain but among the Asian tigers such as Singapore and Taiwan, where government helps to direct industry and sharpens rather than blunts the competitive edge. To make such a policy work, wages have to be kept down, and that entails not only emasculating unions but also strong central government.

The reforming leaders of Eastern Europe are running against the clock. All too often nationalist politicians are seizing on the grievances of the newly unemployed or playing on the fears of workers in the state sector.

In Slovakia, premier Jan Carnogursky, advised by the Adam Smith Institute, is trying to put into place market reforms. Reading from the textbook, he tells the Slovaks that there is no alternative, but Slovaks believe there is, and there has been a big leap in the popularity of his main opponent, the populist Vladimir Mečiar. The rhetorical mix of his speeches can only be described as a brand of national socialism is that the alternative?

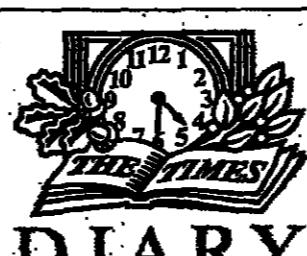
It never reigns

ORGANISERS of the Queen's 40th anniversary celebrations next year have been forced to apologise to two other European royal families over false claims that she is the West's longest serving head of state. Glossy brochures and leaflets claiming erroneously that the Queen was "by far the longest-serving head of state in the Western world" have been pulped.

Such is the embarrassment that it is impossible to get a consistent account of how the Royal Anniversary Trust got into such a mess. What is indisputable is that the claim, made by George Younger, the trust's chairman, in the brochure, is quite wrong.

The mistake was first pointed out by readers when *The Times* and others last month reported the announcement of the trust's plans. Both Prince Rainier of Monaco, who succeeded in 1949, and King Baudouin of Belgium, on the throne since 1951, outstrip the Queen in length of reign.

Younger says: "It was just one of those things." His chief executive, Robin Gill, claims they had



Who? US?

WHEN Gordon Brown took the Tories to task at the Labour conference for relying on "American-style election dirty tricks", he neglected to mention Labour's secret talks with a leading American firm of political consultants. Labour's senior campaign managers spent two weeks earlier this year talking to Doak & Schrūm Associates, practised masters of the art of negative campaigning.

Even the most cynical observers of American politics were taken aback by television ads the firm ran last year for Jim Mattox against fellow Democrat Ann Richards for a gubernatorial nomination. The ads, which became famous as an example of how low American political campaigning can sink, attacked Richards for allegedly using drugs, including marijuana and cocaine.

But what may embarrass Labour even more is the firm's

connection with Joe Biden, whose main claim to fame remains his plagiarism of Kinnock's speeches. The firm fell out with Biden and went on to advise his rival, Richard Gephardt. When Biden's misdeeds were leaked to the press, Doak & Schrūm were blamed. Neil Kinnock said in his speech yesterday: "My father used to say the best answer to dirty play is a goal." But did he really mean in one's own net?

Poll position

THE extraordinary nature of John Wakeham's leak on the timing of the election led to some bizarre theories yesterday. Could it all be a double bluff? Tory central office, contrary to press speculation, says as far as it is concerned nothing has changed. "We were prepared for a June poll, we have been ready ever since, and are ready to go at any time," said a spokesman.

On the other hand, another theory said that the leak, far from being timed to upset Neil Kinnock's conference speech yesterday, was designed to enable the government to go ahead with its £5 billion sale of half its remaining 49 per cent stake in BT, announced yesterday. While an election remained a possibility the sale would have been jeopardised, city experts say.

Political commentators were quick to draw parallels between Major's position and Jim Callaghan's decision not to call a November election in 1978, a decision signalled by Callaghan himself at the TUC conference with a burst of the music-hall favourite "Waiting at the Church". His cryptic message was not fully understood and the prime minister had to spell it out on television a few days later.

As the rugby world cup starts tomorrow, the trophy itself — the William Webb Ellis cup — goes on display in Cardiff at the National Museum of Wales. Alongside it will be a slide show highlighting Wales' glory days in the 1970s. With Wales having failed to win a single game for two years in the five nations' championship, and playing so alarmingly in Australia over the summer, cynics are suggesting that three weeks in the national museum may be the closest the cup gets to being in Welsh hands this year.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Orwellian or Kafkaesque. When someone at a party does that, I wish only that I were better-plastered. If the business acquaintance beside him chips in with a pithy goblet or two from *The Wealth of Nations*, I wish only to move on, in the hope that the lissom redhead steadyng herself against the china cabinet is looking for a lift.

Nor does my heart go pit-a-pat at your silly suggestion that "there's a positive use of such knowledge as well: the opportunity to enliven your conversation with the thoughts and wisdom of great thinkers". For we are both men of the world, Barrington, and when I glance at your list of 30 authors — Euclid, Tacitus, Archimedes and the rest — I may not be forgiven for wondering how far over a lissom redhead, say, would be bowled over by the latest gossip concerning specific gravity?

Never mind. Let us not be cross about all this, nor even pause to wonder how we came to be selected from millions for the chance to join that exclusive band at whom this limited edition is aimed — did extensive research come up with a roll of Britain's 850 greatest conversationalists? — but address the offer's unsettling nuance.

The free mahogany bookcase. The bookcase is very important. In your leaflet, Barrington, while there is only one list of your great authors, there are three photographs of your great bookcase. Indeed, it

has a brochure all its own, showing "the remote corner of Suffolk where small flintstone cottages resound to the time-honoured noise of woodworking... tap-tap, whirr-whirr, burr-burr... go the craftsmen, plying adze and gimlet selflessly in the service of the cardholding illiterate. Nor is this any old bookcase: it revolves — "a Victorian concept which brought to the drawing-room the books they needed for regular access, as opposed to the volumes which merely gathered dust in the library".

Now, I do not carp at this: a man has to know where he can put his finger on Montesquieu or Ptolemy. He could go barmy, sitting alone, unable to recall Wittgenstein's favourite rib-tickler. But if he is not alone? Here, Barrington, is my carp: for I note that your bookcase does not merely revolve, it moves. It has four castors. It can be pulled around the room by any keen conversationalist. Sturdy as it is, it could even be towed behind his car. Any day now, each of 850 cardholders will be in a position to follow the rest of us about, tugging in his gabbling wake Thucydides, Plotinus, Hegel, Brecht...

There will be no escape from the enlivened conversation lurking in that bookcase. The poor sap will believe it'll do nicely. God help us all. Barrington, he won't leave home without it.

Alan Coren's new collection, *A Year in Crikewell*, is published by Robson Books, £12.95.

While the remnants of what was the Soviet Union remove their statues of Lenin and Marx, Tartu in Estonia has found a unique way to honour the old icons. The town, home of the country's oldest university, dating from 1632, has not only removed its communist statues, but has melted down the metal. It is now being recast as a bust of the Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus.

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Early 1950s, the first recorded T-shirt dates from the 1890s, when it was part of US navy uniform regulation, which specified a "lightweight short-sleeved white cotton undershirt". But the use of T-shirts is much newer. That custom is celebrating only its 25th anniversary. Lincoln T-shirts declaring "Abraham Lincoln" would have been too much to take.

Even



RUSSIA'S PROMISED LAND

Russia will not starve. Food is there; under the counters, hoarded in backrooms, hidden by factory managers to barter for precious spare parts. Much will rot in the fields, as broken tractors and combine-harvesters lacking petrol stand idly by. Millions of acres of grain will go to waste, thousands of tons of potatoes remain undug. Food will decay in leaking warehouses, get lost in the labyrinthine rail system or scatter through rusty wagons onto the track, disappear on the way to the shops as racketeers take their cut.

Panic has already set in. Russians fear they will have little to eat but potatoes and are appealing for the world to help them through the winter. What they need is not food parcels, but some practical action on the part of their rulers to obey the laws of supply and demand, the workings of the market and the urgent need to make the rich Russian soil yield again the food that once fed half of Europe.

Western governments know that democracy cannot long survive empty shelves and angry mobs. Sensibly, however, the West is not proposing to send out lorryloads of agricultural surpluses. The Germans, their consciences pricked by wartime memories, tried that last year. But though a few pensioners in St Petersburg were grateful for their parcels, the palliative produced only the cynical observation: "Forty-eight years too late." Instead John Major has dispatched the directors of Britain's leading supermarket chains to see how more food can be produced in the Soviet Union and then distributed efficiently to the people.

Their findings are refreshing. They underline the fact, barely understood even by liberals in the post-communist Soviet Union, that the obstacle to plenty is political, not managerial. Certainly the distribution system could be improved: proper accounting, new warehouses, refrigerated lorries, and honest shop assistants could immediately boost the supplies reaching the state shops. More food could also be grown with more fertilisers, rural investment and basic agricultural technology.

But nothing will induce the peasants in

this still largely rural country to work the land unless it is their own. Nor will they sell their produce, whatever the threats or exhortations, until they get a fair price for it. Food aid from the West will only make that less likely. Land reform has stalled at the critical point. In theory enterprising villagers are now able to lease out land for their own use. In practice jealous bureaucrats give them the worst land, harass their families and sabotage their markets.

The power of these heirs of Stalin must be broken. The vast, inefficient collective farms must be broken up, the party bosses sacked and the land given or sold back to the people; not on an insecute lease but in perpetuity. The West will invest in feeding the Russians only if its businessmen have control of their investments and can repatriate their profits. Yet Russia and other republics still propose to hold down prices, ration supplies and guarantee bread for all.

Finally, any shared strategic defence capabilities developed between America and Russia should also be extended to cover Europe. Europe must not be left vulnerable to nuclear blackmail.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS
(Director),
Institute of Political and
Economic Studies,
Warkworth House,
Warkworth Terrace, Cambridge.

September 28.

Pursuit of principles over Yugoslavia

From Sir Reginald Hibbert

Sir, The complex nationality problems in the Balkans are insoluble. No attempt to solve the problem of Kosovo or the problem of Macedonia or, as we are seeing, the problem of Serb minorities outside Serbia can fail to release violent, destructive forces which have been repressed in one way or another for centuries but it may be possible to handle these explosive issues with some degree of safety by holding firmly to a few protective principles.

1. Frontiers cannot be changed by force.
2. Every Balkan country should be encouraged to introduce and uphold improved human rights regimes for all their citizens, including all their national minorities.
3. Regional co-operation between Balkan governments and with their immediate neighbours should be fostered.
4. Economic help to the Balkan countries from the EC could be closely tied to the pursuit of these principles, particularly the second. Western governments have acquired plenty of experience in using human rights issues against unfriendly regimes; they will probably need to evolve some new techniques to use them to influence potentially friendly governments.

For the moment the only safe starting point seems to be to recognise that solutions are out of reach and that only a rough dousing of passions is likely to be immediately achievable, to be followed by a long apprenticeship in forbearance.

Yours faithfully,
REGINALD HIBBERT,
174 Queen Alexandra Mansions,
Bridgwater Street, WC1.

September 26.

Political puzzle

From Mr Gregory Shenkman

Sir, Mr Ahern (September 24) is confused by the use of the label "right wing" for old handliners of the Communist party in the USSR. Has not noticed that it has become standard practice for large sections of the media to label almost anything politically "bad" as right wing?

Thus the enemies of Mr Gorbachev are labelled right wing because he is a media darling. So, no doubt will be the leaders of the current regime in China, in due course.

I believe that fascism belongs to the extreme centre of Mr Ahern's political spectrum, not to the extreme right, as he suggested, which belongs to the monarchy. Such a concept of politics requires a three, rather than two-dimensional structure for the political spectrum, but in current times of left-wing nationalism (Romania, Serbia), right-wing socialism (France), right-wing conservatism (Georgia), left-wing conservatism (Sweden), perhaps such a concept of politics has become necessary.

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY SHENKMAN,
5-15 Akasaka 9-chome,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107.

September 26.

Unity through golf

From Mr John G. Howarth

Sir, For the past three evenings I have enjoyed watching 12 golfers from Europe pitting their professional skills against 12 golfers from the United States of America.

Where Athens leads, can the rest be far behind? Most of what is done and thought has its roots in ancient Greece and Rome. There are now more professors of Greek philosophy in Japan than in the United Kingdom. When asked to explain their exotic enthusiasm, the Japanese reply that it is essential to understand the foundations of the strange civilisation on the other side of the world. Athens has shown one way to save Britain's precious cities. Seek out the polluting scapegoat. Look no further than the rush hour. Ban the motor car from the city centres and build a green shrine to Apollo. The old wisdom is ever green.

Nevertheless, yesterday's purge of the motorists is not unprecedented. The ancient Greeks had a word for it, as they had for almost everything, from politicians to tabloid newspapers. An inscription of the fifth century BC forbids the bringing of dung into or the cooking of food in the sacred

NAKED INTO THE CONFERENCE

Are party conferences necessary? A few years ago, the Labour conference was the pan-demonium of politics; not any more. Stiffing security, sanitised debate and soundbite oratory are said to have suppressed the unpredictable. These seaside excursions once gave British politics its leavening. But conference platforms are supposed to be more than flattering backdrops for celebrities and mediocrities. The alcohol consumed at Brighton this year seems to have been laced with cynicism. Tory conferences have always been stage-managed. Now that Labour's are too, one school of thought claims that the modern party conference has all the thrills of a harvest festival.

The Fifties and early Sixties were a golden age for conference-goers. Before television began to give party conferences intensive coverage in 1962, only those who were physically present could be sure of witnessing set-piece spectacles such as Gaitskell's "fight and fight and fight again" speech at Scarborough in 1960 or Bevan's attack on unilateral disarmament at Brighton in 1957. Certain politicians made a habit of startling conferences: Lord Hailsham's bell-ringing in 1957 or bidding for the leadership by renouncing his peerage at Blackpool in 1963.

Though television has changed rhetorical fashion and brought ever more outlandish structures onto the platforms, it has not diminished the importance of the conference. It is still a chance to gain kudos within the enclosed world of British politics by good public speaking and effective corridor small talk. Neil Kinnock's undoubted ability as a conference orator, like Aneurin Bevan's and Michael Foot's, underpins much of his dominance over his party and colleagues, more so than any shortcomings in the Commons.

Medieval monarchs were sometimes acclaimed by their vassals to confirm their regality. Mr Kinnock's primacy was re-

AEOLIAN RUSH HOURS

Athens banned private cars from its centre yesterday. The dreaded "nephos", the brown cloud of smog that looms over the city like the wrath of some malevolent deity, had exceeded the danger limit in nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and ozone, the pollutant that is generated by petrol engines. The nephos is created by emissions from cars and industry and has been insipidated by unusually hot weather. In its own poisonous way the miasma of Athens has done more damage to the Acropolis than the Amazons, the Persians, the Spartans, the Macedonians, the Turks, Lord Elgin and Olympic Airways combined.

The city fell eerily silent as Athenian motorists, the noisiest, most macho and worst in the world, were driven from the streets complaining about this draconian measure. The Athenian politician Draco has been unfairly vilified by subsequent generations in the 26 centuries since he codified some of the first laws in the western world. All he did was to replace private vengeance for crime with strictly public justice. Pace the fuming motorists of Athens, he never banned cars nor even introduced the death penalty for every single offence.

Nevertheless, yesterday's purge of the motorists is not unprecedented. The ancient Greeks had a word for it, as they had for almost everything, from politicians to tabloid newspapers. An inscription of the fifth century BC forbids the bringing of dung into or the cooking of food in the sacred

affirmed yesterday by the same method. It was not a memorable speech, indeed it was vacuous, but it had presence and it conveyed dominance. The jibe aimed at the Tories' method of stealing Labour's thunder — a British government scuttling around the press handing out rumours from its own ministers" — was vintage rhetoric.

Though the Tory conference, unlike Labour's, has no role in policy-making or in choosing the leader, John Major knows its value, especially in the absence of that legitimacy which derives from a general election. Mr Major's first conference speech as party leader will be as important to his future as yesterday's speech was to Mr Kinnock's. At conference, the leader looms larger than ever, with every failing magnified. The greater the predecessor, the harder the task of the successor.

Party conferences are not only for the benefit of leaders. Fringe meetings — more than 50 of them in Brighton yesterday alone

— provide the necessary safety valve for the frustrations which are banished from the official agenda. The informal encounters at bars and parties, whether in Grand Hotel or bed and breakfast, of politicians, officials, delegates and the press constitute the social membrane of party politics. With dwindling memberships and fewer mass rallies in between election campaigns, parties need the opportunities for mingling which only conferences offer.

The gloomy prophecy that British conferences are coming to resemble American conventions is as dubious an analogy as the commonplace that parliamentary politics is becoming presidential. Both depend on an overestimation of television's ability to alter the fundamentals, not just the externals, of politics. Though they are at least as ritualised as the other institutions of British democracy, conferences prove that ritual need not be a hindrance to survival.

Yours faithfully,
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Keeping nuclear options open

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, President Bush's decision to make radical cuts in America's nuclear arsenal in a bid to forestall the horizontal spread of nuclear weapons (report, September 28) is highly welcome. But what makes sense for America may not be in the interest of the UK, should his policy include dramatic reductions in submarine-launched systems.

It is imperative that President Bush confirms the current arrangement to supply the Trident system to Britain even if the assumption is that the successor to Trident may well have to be European. This is no time to abandon the strategic nuclear option given the interest in nuclear capabilities revealed by states like Iraq and North Korea.

Finally, any shared strategic defence capabilities developed between America and Russia should also be extended to cover Europe. Europe must not be left vulnerable to nuclear blackmail.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HATFIELD,
General Secretary,
Society of Education Officers,
20 Bedford Way, WC1.
September 29.

Few good marks for Parent's Charter

From the General Secretary of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, Your leader comment (September 28) on the government's new Parent's Charter exposes several flaws in the proposals and the fallacies in the claims that choice will be more widely available.

You also say, rightly, that aggrieved parents must have somewhere to go other than the institution the grievance is about. They do have somewhere to go at present; they can go to their local councillors or their local education authority officers. Will it be necessary to invent something like LEAs after the government has destroyed them?

In any case, what confidence can parents have in an inspection report given by those chosen by the governors and the headteacher to inspect their institution? Would we be happy with factories and restaurants choosing their own inspectors and can we all look forward to appointing our own income tax inspectors?

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS HATFIELD,
General Secretary,
Society of Education Officers,
20 Bedford Way, WC1.
September 29.

From Mr D. Leaf

Sir, What difference will a Parent's Charter make? Any governing body will tell you that the annual parent's meeting is poorly attended. Any parent-teacher association will tell you that press-ganging is necessary to get a committee and that only a small proportion of parents attend PTA events.

Headteachers will tell you that aggrieved parents hammer on their doors. Teachers will tell you that the only time parents appear in force in school is for progress reports and interviews about their children's performance.

A Parent's Charter will not change any of this, nor will it solve the apathy of the majority of parents to the running of a school. Instead, there is a grave danger that the charter will add to the administrative burden of schools and LEAs without actually enhancing the quality of education.

Yours faithfully,
D. LEAF,
14 Linen Street, Warwick.
September 30.

From Mr J. R. Bradshaw

Sir, In the complex nationality problems in the Balkans are insoluble. No attempt to solve the problem of Kosovo or the problem of Macedonia or, as we are seeing, the problem of Serb minorities outside Serbia can fail to release violent, destructive forces which have been repressed in one way or another for centuries but it may be possible to handle these explosive issues with some degree of safety by holding firmly to a few protective principles.

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Sir, Mr Ahern (September 24) is confused by the use of the label "right wing" for old handliners of the Communist party in the USSR. Has not noticed that it has become standard practice for large sections of the media to label almost anything politically "bad" as right wing?

Thus the enemies of Mr Gorbachev are labelled right wing because he is a media darling. So, no doubt will be the leaders of the current regime in China, in due course.

I believe that fascism belongs to the extreme centre of Mr Ahern's political spectrum, not to the extreme right, as he suggested, which belongs to the monarchy. Such a concept of politics requires a three, rather than two-dimensional structure for the political spectrum, but in current times of left-wing nationalism (Romania, Serbia), right-wing socialism (France), right-wing conservatism (Georgia), left-wing conservatism (Sweden), perhaps such a concept of politics has become necessary.

Yours faithfully,
GREGORY SHENKMAN,
5-15 Akasaka 9-chome,
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107.

September 26.

Boxing and injuries

From Dr W. W. Gibbon

Sir, Unfortunately, no investigation prior to the event will predict acute brain injury such as occurred in Michael Watson's recent fight (leading article, September 23; letter, September 27) any more than the extent of injuries following a road traffic accident can be predicted before a crash. However, the effects of repeated head trauma on brain substance can be demonstrated.

The British Boxing Board of Control representatives have repeatedly stated to the media that professional boxers have regular compulsory brain scans. These, known as CAT scans, are of relatively low sensitivity to show changes following repetitive injury.

A far more sensitive method of demonstrating brain substance abnormalities, known as MRI scan-

ning does not use ionising radiation and can be performed more frequently without risk of radiation-induced problems. It is more expensive for the boxer concerned, however: the scans are not provided by the NHS and are funded by boxers directly.

Does boxing really want to optimise protection against the effects of chronic injury, or is brain scanning simply a token gesture? If the former, should not compulsory MRI (not CAT) scanning be carried out at perhaps six-month intervals, regardless of the financial considerations?

Yours faithfully,
W. W. GIBBON (Senior
Registrar in Diagnostic Radiology),
Cardiff Royal Infirmary,
Newport Road,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan.

September 27.

Lottery lessons

From Mr John R. Poole

Sir, Recently in your Saturday Review the Sydney Opera House was ranked as the finest of the modern seven wonders of the world. I paid for it (so did others) during the years I lived there, by our weekly tickets in the opera house lottery, until eventually it was built.

Why not here? Is there nothing more we need in this country, beyond government expenditure, for public health or

characters are not at from each other; not explore their very face, and their the whole, the desperate desire for God's "Where is the uk, pessimism of us and their pain" as Williams and he stalks of garlic, an elaborate routine to in to sell his own the landowner's introducing of his probably strive to save it. They mug well. But that for a neartastic what finally makes sense of suffering, sculpts himself as and it, even when happy, there is a tinge to his face as a nation manager in a mild, sheepish enough.

Philip Jackson the usual despoiler, is much sadder, a of bounds who on stage to brancramps as if they s, and his slave, fully transformed by a broken cleric, becomes a cleric sermon he sached even. Sun have applauded. he would, I fear, brazenly.

HIGHTINGALE

ough it had never of an exceptional vich, who had to at threads after interruptions by pproved.

n and the Philid with a perfor- from Debba's the bloodless, for with Stravinsky's in its original, ation with car- ed in advance had a marvellous

D MORRISON

ur a Child. This rocker typical of a tragedied by his son's open need to either, or of & weaving strong all.

nt about him to tickle his project. A tremendous thing, to command organ- however the both him. Redding's "Hand rated the band's old tempo. B. B. B. independent, tempts to leave extended, and on the "Interlocking" piano. A version of "Back" is a week of a pub here in midland a night.

the of the man considered in the Steve Connor of the novel of was re-enacted, losing shot of and of being that staggering, and to

10 SINGULAR

features, page 18

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Major's election leak backfires on Tories

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's decision against a November election was last night provoking heated debate, not so much over its content as over the manner of its delivery.

Neil Kinnock sought to exploit the leak: "You can run but you can't hide," he told Mr Major in his speech at the party's conference in Brighton. Allegations that the announcement had been botched were ripe among less prejudiced sources.

"None of us could believe that Kinnock had been given such a gift by the Tories. Labour people were just chortling in the bars; they couldn't believe their luck," an ITN spokesman in Brighton said. "If the Tories had announced it yesterday morning instead, they would have been headline news at 6 o'clock, not Kinnock attacking the Tories," said one political correspondent.

The Tories' main dilemma concerned timing. If they had waited until yesterday, they might have pushed Mr Kinnock out of last night's television headlines, but they would have been criticised for their cynicism. As it was, they were accused of it anyway, mainly by those they left out of the privileged network.

Angering newspapers such as *The Independent* and agencies such as the Press Association, neither of which was privy to the leak, meant the source, once discovered, was rapidly revealed. John Wakeham, one of Mr Major's closest cabinet colleagues, was the man, it emerged yesterday, who telephoned *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Express*, *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sun* at 10am on Monday morning.

Although Mr Wakeham deliberately avoided breaking the news to broadcasters in order to ensure the story remained a Tuesday morning splash, Elinor Goodman, the political editor of *Channel 4 News*, learned of it from John Smith, the shadow chancellor, in time for a quick report on Monday night. It assumed one of the chosen journalists must have told Mr Smith.

Kinnock triumph, page 1
Labour in Brighton, page 9
Media, page 13
Peter Riddell, page 16
Diary, page 16
Leading article, page 17



Muzzle velocity: a high-speed collision leaves one Afghan hound looking puzzled during a race at Sunmead Stadium in Reading.

Berks. The dogs were practising for the final of the Efamol trophy at the stadium next month. Brenda Reynolds, of the sponsors Efamol Vet,

said: "Unlike racing greyhounds, they don't always run in the right direction. Some cock their legs on the way, or forget to finish. Others run the wrong way, and some are diverted by a good smell. Squirrel chasing seems to be the most common kind of training."

Major scents diplomatic coup over EC treaty

Continued from page 1

of national ministers and members of the European parliament yesterday. He said, however, that the parliament could not expect national parliaments to "embrace euthanasia".

The European parliament has asked for powers to frame or veto laws and for greater rights to control the appointment and actions of the unelected commission which drafts EC policies. Several ministers at yesterday's meeting suggested that a com-

promise could be found by strengthening the parliament's powers over the commission.

With only nine weeks left to the summit, the prime minister believes that the Dutch government's anxiety to preside over the signing of a Maastricht treaty between the EC member states opens the way for agreement on slower, less ambitious progress towards strengthening the community.

Mr Major has made it clear he would not want the word "federal" in any final agreement.

At tomorrow's meeting Mr Major will also put forward plans for emergency flood aid to the Soviet Union during the winter from both the G7 countries and the community.

After a month of talks with Soviet officials and the G7 "sherpas", and reports from the agriculture minister John Gummer on the food shortages, he is expected to ask for surplus EC food mountains to be sent as and when necessary.

Lubbers retreat, page 12

As England and New Zealand launch the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham tomorrow, *The Times* publishes a 16-page guide, in full colour, to what is undoubtedly the biggest sporting event staged in Britain since the football World Cup of 1966. The guide is essential reading for followers of this, the premier event in world rugby. It includes a wall chart enabling you to keep track of matches and results through the month, articles include one by Rob Andrew, England's fly half, on life inside the England camp, there is a complete guide to the television coverage on ITV and much more to keep readers informed and entertained during the tournament. Order tomorrow's *Times* today

Kinnock makes health main election issue

Continued from page 1

health secretary. Conservative business managers believe that Mr Major, who has always used the NHS personally, carries more conviction as its defender than did Mrs Thatcher when she declared in 1983 that the NHS was "safe on our hands".

But campaigns by Labour, by health service unions and by medical bodies against the health service reforms which permit hospitals to opt out of local health authority control (although not, as ministers regularly emphasise, out of the NHS) have led to increased public concern about the future of the NHS, notably at the Monmouth by-election.

After that contest, the raising of public consciousness on health issues saw a rapid Labour surge to a temporary lead in national opinion polls.

The Tory concern is underlined by the latest Mori opinion poll. Conducted from September 20-24, this showed that the public found Labour's policies best on health by a margin of 21 (46 per cent to 22). Those considering health to be one of the most im-

portant issues were at 45 per

cent, second, only to unemployment.

■ A further worry for the Conservatives now the election has been postponed until the spring is that two by-elections must be held at the marginals of Langbaugh and Kincardine and Deeside (Sheila Gunn writes). They are likely to be held either on November 7 or 14.

The Queen's speech, opening the last session before the general election, has also been brought forward from November to October 31. The early start will give the government's business managers more time to clear the legislation, including the bill to replace the poll tax with a council tax, through parliament in time for a possible spring election.

Kincardine and Deeside Tories have picked Marcus Humphrey, aged 53, the laird of Dimmet, to fight the by-election after the death in August of Alick Buchanan-Smith. His prospects of holding the seat look dim against a strong challenge from the Liberal Democrat candidate, Nicol Stephen, aged 31, who came within 2,063 votes of ousting the Tories in 1987.

Political sketch

Neil's gladiators entertain the conference circus

"A FUNNY thing happened to me," said a young man called Julian, to the conference yesterday, "on my way to the forum."

With its pillars and plinths and pantheon-style seating arrangements, Labour's classical white designer platform at Brighton resembles a stage set for a post-democratic socialist version of *Up Pompeii*. Snigger ye not. With the Frankie Howard vote, Mr Kinnock could be in for life.

But it does mean proceedings have the air of a Roman games-show. The platform party blends well with the scene ...

"Your question for twenty, Geraldus Nauseus which Labour front-bencher had been trying for longest to get onto the NEC? You had? That's right Geraldus. Clare, bring him the grapes." Clare Short, a robust Dionysian demigoddess if ever there was one, is never far from the platform; while Harriet Harman, though she was not actually wearing white robes yesterday, deserves her front-line place in the Chorus, gracefully chanting doot.

"Nice oration, Antonius Blair. You win the racing chariot. Now, over to that scion of the Hattersley family, Lunachus Maximus. For 20 points, Lunachus, and a Bacchanalian feast in Cote, name a policy that has survived the last three Labour manifestos? You can't? That's right Lunachus..."

For the first time, Mr Kinnock nearly sounded like a prime minister. Only when a verbal slip had him telling us of his plans for a "high-speed rail network" did the old Kinnock peep through.

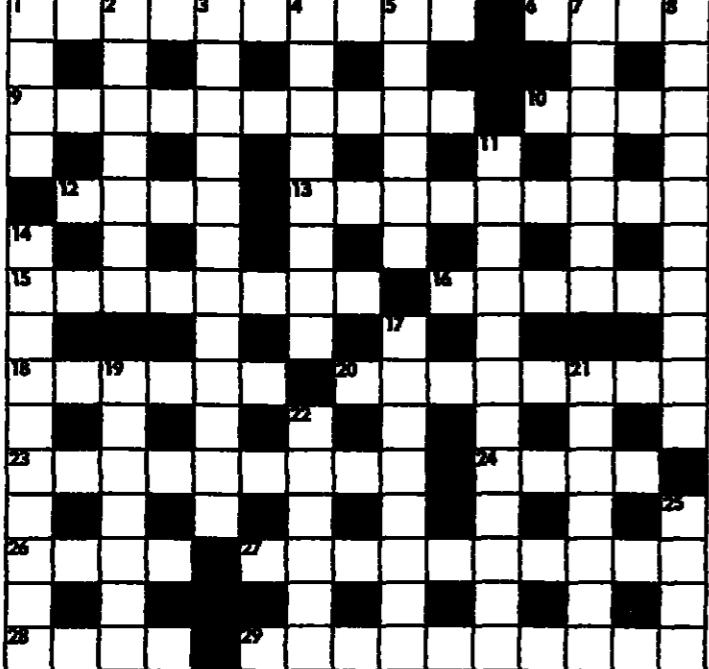
Before his speech, an elderly activist, Judy Fryd, permitted her moment at the microphone, she spoke of William Morris, Robert Owen and supporting the striking miners before the war. She spoke movingly and, straining to hear, I was distracted by a party manager talking to his colleague. "Smashing," he was saying (about some conference arrangement), "good-good. She's overrunning. Someone should shut her up."

Eventually Mrs Fryd was given her gift and left, like Orwell's faithful old horse, Boxer, who was removed to the knacker's after the pigs took the ascendancy at Animal Farm. Like Boxer, Mrs Fryd's work was done. If she stayed, she will not have recognised much in her leader's speech.

I shall miss her. So, I suspect, will the Tories.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,726



ACROSS
1 Drug dispenser has to help on till, say (10).
6 Timid females among W African people (4).
9 Important person taking the pledge, relatively speaking? (5-5).
10 Promised extract from Horatio at Hamlet's duel with Laertes (4).
12 Country bumpkin detailed to put on collar (4).
13 A Pictish circle, perhaps? There it is in a nutshell (9).
15 Porter given a right involving random choice (5).
16 Innocent child a composer lost in Italy (6).
18 Favourite student expelled in a show of boldness (6).
20 The prevalence of bills in America (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,725

DEPOSITION M C
L R N V E S K I M O
AVOGADROS D L
E A U R A T I O N A L
R N L I I A
USED GREENLIGHT
N I E S O N E
PAGEANT S M E D I T E R
L I N G C A I A A
A R M A G E D D O N C O A L
Y M A A H L
A G I T P R O P T C L
B G A T A I L L S P I N
L I K E L Y O O S E S
E Y S T R I N G E N D O

23 Food item of unusual value on TV (3-2-4).
24 A leader retired to this island (4).
26 Incline to be like the hungry-looking Cassius (4).
27 Young female horse-breaker said to be obstructive (10).
28 English clergyman's flat (4).
29 Throw out protest — there may be a catch in it (7-3).

DOWN

1 Attendant takes exercise astride a horse (4).
2 Article you and I find in part inspiring (7).
3 Language unfamiliar to tougher men (6-6).
4 Pie blown up after prisoners hatch a plot (3).
5 Odds on strike causing big headlines (6).
7 Survive the river crossing (7).
8 "Love goes toward love, as from their books" (R. & J.) (10).
11 Corpulent woman with character, a respected counsellor (6-6).
14 Posh blighter in farewell entertainment (10).
17 They're the very end in drapery? (8).
19 Free record made available to the public (7).
20 No players are in the lead all the time (3-4).
22 Woolen yarn of endless excellence? Not at all (6).
25 Irritation caused by sea mist (4).

MONDAY WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHERIMOVER

- a. The Peruvian custard apple
- b. A double cherry
- c. An Apache medicine man

RECKLING

- a. Seaweed growing on a shipwreck
- b. Counting as nothing
- c. The weakest or youngest of a litter

LIPBLOCK

- a. Lip cream to stop sunburn
- b. A vow of silence
- c. The residue of a vault

TAPOTEMENT

- a. A Bengal costume
- b. Massage by hitting
- c. Fishing by hand grenade

Answers on page 20

Concise crossword, page 19

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0838 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C London (within N & S Circs) 731
M-ways/roads M1 Dartford T 723
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

THE LAST WORD
IN CIGARS

CHAMBORD
COMPLIMENTS OF HENRI WINTERMANS

WEATHER

Much of England will be dry and bright at first but the cloud and rain over south-western areas and the Channel Isles will spread north-eastwards. Windy especially in the north and west. Northern Ireland will be windy with rain at times. Scotland will be cloudy, misty and windy with outbreaks of rain. Wales will be cloudy for much of the day with light rain becoming heavier. Outlook brighter with showers.

WEATHERFRONT

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloudy

London 17.5°C

Guernsey 16.5°C

Belfast 14.5°C

Edinburgh 14.5°C

Manchester 14.5°C

Sheffield 14.5°C

Glasgow 14.5°C

Cardiff 14.5°C

Dover 14.5°C

Falmouth 14.5°C

Brighton 14.5°C

Plymouth 14.5°C

Exeter 14.5°C

Weymouth 14.5°C

Wick 14.5°C

Orkney 14.5°C

Torquay 14.5°C

Swansea 14.5°C

Weymouth 14.5°C

Water industry agrees to peg price increases

By MARTIN WALLER

MOST of the water companies in England and Wales have given in to pressure from Ian Bryant, the industry watchdog, and agreed to hold next year's price increases to below the level permitted under the industry's regulatory régime.

There was some relief in the City that the amount of cash forgone by the water industry, and in particular by the ten companies quoted on the stock market, was less than had been feared. The prices of several of the ten are likely to rise this morning after last night's late announcement from Mr Bryant, director-general of water services.

Last month, Mr Bryant called on the 32 businesses in the industry in England and Wales, including 22 statutory water companies without stock market quotations, to forgo voluntarily some of their permitted price rises to take

account of gains from lower than forecast costs or delays in capital spending. Mr Bryant has the power to call for immediate adjustments in water price rises to levels below those already set for the five years after privatisation. His call for some increases to be relinquished was seen as part of the continuing tug-of-war between the industry and the regulator.

Mr Bryant said most water companies had agreed to moderate their price increases next April, and the reductions would knock £40 million off next year's water bills.

Stephen Doe, water analyst at Smith New Court, the broker, said the market had feared that Mr Bryant might single out several of the larger companies for an interim review. Severn Trent and Welsh Water share prices had been particularly hard hit, he said.

Significantly, both have accepted comparatively hefty reductions in price increases.

Some customers who take their water from statutory companies will also see some significant reductions from expected price rises.

Water companies' finances have been pulled two ways since privatisation. Although they have seen increased clean-up expenses, other costs have fallen faster than forecast. High interest rates have meant windfall earnings from large cash balances held in the bank when the companies were floated.

Comment, page 25

K is the amount above inflation originally agreed with the companies for price increases. K+1 is the amount permissible for next year after earlier rises were foregone and the K+1 increase above inflation agreed by the companies after pressure from the regulator.

Path cleared for BT shares to raise £5bn

By GRAHAM SEARLENT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE prime minister's decision not to hold an autumn general election has cleared the way to raise £5 billion in the sale of about half the government's 49 per cent holding in BT, the telephone utility. The informal announcement of the political decision on Monday night allowed the marketing campaign for a sale in early December to go ahead yesterday morning without electoral complications.

A share information office has opened and the government is starting a campaign of television advertisements.

Small investors will be offered more complex incentives than before to enable the government to aim at least half the likely £5 billion sale at the public while BT shares remain quoted and subject to stock market fluctuations.

Incentives will include a fixed discount on the first of three instalments to give a quick profit. Bonus shares or a discount on the final instalment will be offered to those who hold on to their shares, if registered with the share information office. Existing BT shareholders are registered automatically.

Preference will be given to those who sign up for one of the eight approved share



before the offer closes. All institutional investors will pay this price. Small investors will also be charged on the basis of the striking price. They will, therefore, not know the final cost of the shares, which might be more than the quoted price of BT, when they apply.

Small shareholders will, however, pay a fixed first instalment, on which they will be given a discount. The discount is likely to be about 5 per cent of the fall price but nearer 15 per cent of the first instalment.

Phonepoint, the one-way

cordless phone service in

which BT has a majority

stake, was suspended yes-

terday leaving no telepoint

systems operating in Britain

(Nick Nutall writes).

Phonepoint, which cost the consortium £25 million over its two years of operation, had only 800 customers. Yesterday's announcement leaves Hutchinson Telecommunications, which bought out the BYPS consortium of Barclays Bank, Shell and Philips earlier in the year, as the only telepoint operator planning a service.

Mercury Calpoint suspended operations in July and Zonephone, in which Ferranti had a majority stake, had also been suspended.

Comment, page 25

Company doctor revives Dan-Air

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Davies & Newman, the company that owns Dan-Air, slumped by more than half to 70p yesterday after it was pulled back from the brink of collapse through a £53.75 million cash injection from 19 City institutions.

The airline, whose bank debts climbed to within £1 million of its limit on the last day of the Gulf war and which lost £39 million last year and a further £30 million in the first six months of this year, is convinced it has turned the corner and predicts constant profits growth from next year.

The rescue package, involving the placing of 107.5 million ordinary shares at 50p each, was hawked around the city over the past three weeks by David James, the company doctor who was appointed



James: City support chairman of Davies & Newman almost exactly a year ago for a fee of £1,000 a day. He will step down next summer and hand over to Peter Ryan, the airline's chairman. A new managing director with long experience in the airline industry is being sought. Mr

James said: "I have never been involved in such a detailed financial investigation of a corporate plan."

The institutions were attracted by Mr James's detailed recovery plan. This forecasts that losses will rise to £35 million this year but projects that Dan-Air will return profits of £20 million next year, rising to £42 million by 1995. The company promises to eliminate its debts and pay a dividend by 1993.

Under its new corporate plan, Dan-Air will get rid of a total of 21 old Boeing 727 and BAC 1-11 jets, mainly to third world countries, and replace them with 20 new leased Boeing 737-400s. The new aircraft will be concentrated on scheduled services.

Dan-Air was on the brink of collapse when Mr James took over the reins last year, and was then hit hard by the Gulf

war, which led to daily losses of around £600,000 and a total loss of £14 million. Lloyds and four foreign banks had agreed to a complex loan package to tide the company over until the end of this year. Mr James believes that if the war had gone on for two more days the company would have run out of cash.

Over the past 12 months, a total of 24 unprofitable routes have been axed from Dan-Air's network, including Gatwick to Belfast that alone was losing the airline £1.8 million a year.

Now the company hopes to keep competitors at bay and rebuild confidence by holding on to its attractive slots at Gatwick and applying for 11 new route licences, of which seven will be in operation within three years.

Comment, page 25



Stepping out: Julia Lemigova and Yulia Kosman model Littlewoods' Russian lines

Littlewoods opens two new stores in Russia

By OUR CITY STAFF

RUSSIAN shoppers are to get a flavour of the British high street when Littlewoods, Britain's largest private company, opens two shops in St Petersburg next week. The move is Littlewoods' first retail expansion outside Britain.

Desmond Pitcher, the chief executive, declined to say how much the project had cost but said that during the August coup he had feared the investment would be lost. Expected sales were not disclosed but Mr Pitcher believes the venture could break even in its first year.

Littlewoods has signed two joint venture agreements with Russian groups, one with Gostiny Dvor, the city's largest department store, which will house both shops, and one with Mayak Tailoring Association, which will make clothes in Russia to Littlewood's designs.

One shop will accept only local currency and will sell the Russian-made men's and women's clothes. The other will be a hard currency store selling electrical goods, clothing, beauty products, food, tobacco and alcohol. Mr Pitcher said the shops would sell identical goods to those available in Britain. He added that if the venture was successful, Littlewoods could eventually have more stores in Russia than the UK.

Discussing the group's proposed sale of its mail order business, Mr Pitcher said he was negotiating with three parties, some from continental Europe. He said Littlewoods agreement to repurchase Home Delivery Service, part of Federal Express UK, would not affect the sale of the mail order business although Home Delivery Service will be sold along with the catalogue business.

JAMES GRAY

Interim profits plunge to £4.6m at Sears

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

GOFFREY Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, the Selfridge's to Dolcis shoe shops and Freemans mail order group, said fear of unemployment and uncertainty over the general election's timing and outcome were continuing to dampen spending despite the fall in interest rates.

He described trading conditions as the worst in 20 years and said there was little sign of an immediate improvement. The increase in value-added tax, which cost the group £7.5 million in the first half of the year, and higher fixed costs coupled with a downturn in sales led to a slump in profits for the six months to end-July.

Pre-tax profits fell from £62.4 million to £4.6 million after £18.2 million of exceptional costs, mostly relating to the sale of the Hornes menswear chain to its management. Sales fell from £1.03 billion to £994 million and earnings per share fell from 3p to 0.2p. The interim dividend is held at 1.525p.

The retail division, which includes Miss Selfridge, Freemans, Warehouse and Saxon, made trading profits of £18.9 million, down from £36.2 million, and of that the Freemans mail order business made £14.3 million, up from £14 million. Footwear and menswear both made first-half losses. Property profits fell from £13.2 million to £6.1 million. Strong performers were Adams childrenswear and the group's continental European businesses which, with £200 million of sales, is one of the areas that the group has identified for expansion.

A cost-cutting exercise has wiped £20 million off of costs the year and 2,500 jobs have gone over the past year.

The group, which has attracted takeover bid rumours recently, has been sending out section 212 notices on a daily basis to keep it informed as to the identity of new shareholders, but so far "nothing untoward" had turned up. Mr Maitland Smith said. He confirmed that the Fayed family still held 10.5 per cent of the shares.

Stock market, page 26

Tempus, page 26

Markets celebrate election decision

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A FLUSH of excitement ran through the financial markets, pushing the pound and share prices higher, after John Major's decision to rule out an election before the spring.

The FT-SE 100 index rose 20 points during the morning, closing at 2,645.6, up 23.9 from Monday. The pound jumped half a pfenning, but eased back slightly to DM2.9140 at the Bank of England close, only slightly above its previous finish. Sterling's trade-weighted index held steady at 91.1.

Although the prime minister has relieved the political pressure for early interest rate cuts by deciding against a November election, market hopes are rising that he will pare a further half point off base rate in conjunction with the inflation figures out on Friday next week. The money markets have largely discounted such a move since the last cut on September 4, when base rate was lowered half point to 10.5 per cent. The removal of uncertainty about the political timetable enabled sterling to hold steady.

Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, foresaw a danger that, in delaying the election, the economic indicators would still not be favourable enough to secure a Conservative victory. He foresees annual inflation starting to tick back up later this year with a possibility that the government might be forced to raise interest rates again before going to the polls. The recovery is also likely to be too weak to improve unemployment.

THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN . . .

... to the 1992 Olympic

Games — the greatest sporting

festival in the world. And

Minet is backing British

sporting preparation with a

£2 million sponsorship

package. All designed to give

British sportsmen and

women that winning edge.

Minet, too, has developed a

winning edge. A world leader

in the provision of insurance

services, risk management,

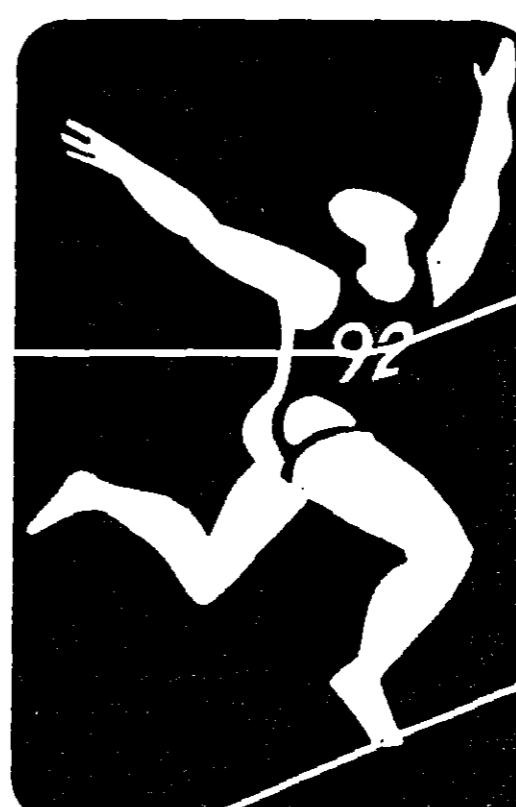
and consultancy in the

financial services sector.

Minet is part of a worldwide

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Gulliver stands down

JAMES Gulliver is bowing out of the quoted company arena by resigning as chairman of Waverley Cameron, the Edinburgh office supplies group. He had indicated that he wanted to step down from the company in December when it was the subject of a reverse takeover by BTG Group, the office equipment concern.

Mr Gulliver, who has a 24 per cent stake in Waverley, will remain a significant shareholder. He will be replaced as chairman by Michael Scorer, the former chairman of BTG.

Countryside sale

Countryside Properties, the property developer, has sold its newly-completed Chase Cross office development in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, to the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society for about £12.5 million. The 44,000 sq ft development will be the new headquarters for Cheltenham & Gloucester Guardian, a subsidiary of the building society. Countryside shares added 3p to 106p.

Intrum expands

Intrum Justitia, Europe's largest debt collector, has opened a subsidiary to buy bad loans from British banks, building societies and retailers. The company, which is listed on the London Stock Exchange, has put £4 million into the operation, and thought to have borrowing facilities of up to £75 million to buy debt.

Style loss grows

Style, the footwear retailer, has reported "very disappointing" interim results. The half-year pre-tax loss has swelled to £5.65 million (£231,000 loss) because of the recession, poor weather, higher VAT charges and increased rents. There is again no interim dividend.

AIB stops issue

AIB Group, Ireland's leading bank, has cancelled an \$80 million share placing in America because it failed to attract sufficiently high quality investors. The bank said it was postponing the issue of 4.7 million American depository shares, equivalent to 29.3 million ordinary shares or 5 per cent of its capital.

Guinness 'used share support to counter rival'

BY OUR CITY STAFF

GUINNESS only supported its share price during an acrimonious takeover battle five years ago when a rival used "unfair" tactics, a court was told yesterday.

Olivier Roux, finance director during the company's £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers and the Crown's main prosecution witness in the Guinness fraud trial, said support was used just as a "corrective".

Mr Roux, cross-examined by Roger Seelig, the former corporate finance director at Morgan Grenfell, told Southwark Crown Court that whenever share price support was discussed at Guinness, it was always on the basis of preventing Argyll, its bid rival, from taking an "unfair advantage".

Support was used as a "counter-measure" not as an "aggressive attack".

Mr Seelig denies two charges of false accounting under the 1968 Theft Act and one under the 1958 Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act. Lord Spens, former managing director of Henry Anscher and Company, denies a charge of false accounting.

Both men have pleaded not guilty to a joint charge alleging conspiracy to contravene the provisions of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act.

The trial continues today.



Chief witness: Olivier Roux, former finance director

Creditors' bid to jail Nadir 'futile'

AN ATTEMPT by leading creditors of Polly Peck International to jail Asil Nadir, the company's former chairman, over a \$27 million deal to sell his shareholding in a Turkish bank was described as "futile" by his QC in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Nadir told Mr Seelig yesterday that he had never believed what he had done was either dishonest or unlawful, nor would he have ever entertained breaking the law. He told the court his firm,

argue that the move to jail him by the Inland Revenue and eight leading banks should be struck out without a full hearing because they had shown no case against him.

The creditors have started committal proceedings against Mr Nadir on the basis of alleged breaches of a High Court undertaking not to dispose of his assets pending the hearing of a bankruptcy petition launched last October. The breaches relate to the

sale last December of Mr Nadir's 98 per cent shareholding in Impex, the Turkish bank, coupled with an option for Mr Nadir to repurchase the shares within three years.

Counsel said Mr Nadir had sold the shares for the benefit of his creditors and had formally assigned the proceeds of the sale to them in January this year. In February, the bankruptcy petition was dismissed. In March, the buyers of the Impex shares

had failed to pay the first \$12 million instalment.

Mr Brodie said the creditors believed that some "collusive bargain" had been made although there was not "one single shred of evidence".

Mr Nadir had repeatedly urged the creditors to sue the purchasers in Turkey in order to recover either the shares or the purchase price.

The hearing, expected to last a further two days, continues tomorrow.

ADVERTISEMENT



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

Press Statement

ATTEMPTED FRAUDULENT TRANSFER OF FUNDS

The Central Bank of Nigeria has become aware of attempts being made by some unknown persons to defraud some overseas corporations and individual business-men. These attempts take the form of circular letters or unauthenticated fax or telex messages relating to purported approved transfer of funds running into millions of U.S. Dollars arising from excess claims on some alleged foreign contracts awarded between 1979 and 1983 in Nigeria.

2. The authors of these circular letters who always use Nigerian names are believed to be part of a syndicate of international tricksters out to dupe the gullible overseas recipients who may fall their victims. In these circular letters, they seek to solicit the support of the recipients to help them transfer the funds from Nigeria to offshore bank accounts with a promise to share the illegal proceeds with them. They request from the would-be collaborators blank

but signed corporate stationery including proforma invoices, a nominated bank account number to receive the funds, the nominated bank address etc.

3. These tricksters, have in a number of cases, succeeded in collecting huge sums of money from some overseas collaborators for what they often describe as local taxes or levies and expenses to bribe government officials to facilitate release of the funds. They produce fake documents purporting them to be the initial contracts, official approvals and payment order instructions signed by some officials of the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Nigeria in order to convince their collaborators that action has been completed at their end for the transfer of the funds.

4. Enquiries addressed to the Central Bank of Nigeria relating to these fraudulent attempts have not only come as a surprise but have also been a source

of embarrassment. The Central Bank of Nigeria, therefore, wishes to advise all recipients of these fraudulent letters, unauthenticated fax or telex messages that they do not emanate from the Bank and that the Bank has no knowledge or record whatsoever of the purported claims or transfers or even the related alleged contracts.

5. The Central Bank of Nigeria wishes also to use this medium to appeal to all recipients to exercise caution and to contact their local law enforcement agencies or the International Police Organisation nearest to them in order to help track these international crooks. The Bank will bear no responsibility for any loss sustained by any person or corporation that fails to heed this warning in the hope of making quick money.

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STOCK MARKET

Investors optimistic on medium-term prospects

THE prime minister's decision to rule out a November general election swept away any remaining doubts that investors may have had about the medium-term prospects for the equity market. The City is already bracing itself for another cut in base rates and more takeover activity. The equity market shrugged off its lethargy as fund managers decided to top-up their portfolios with blue chips as the final quarter began.

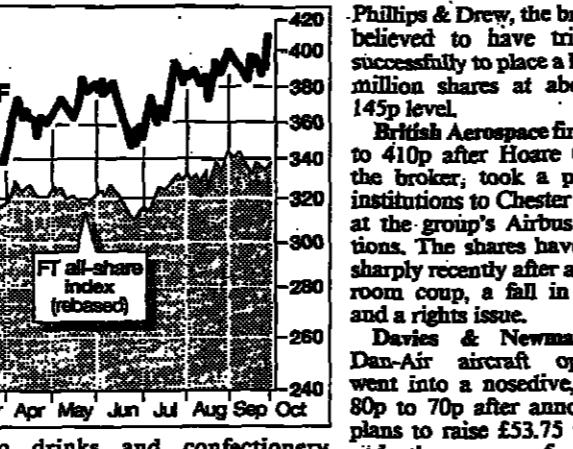
The FT-SE 100 index was unable to hide its delight at the prospect of a move towards cheaper money, finishing at its best of the day with a rise of 23.9 at 2,645.6. There was a marked increase on Monday's depressing turnover levels, with 618 million shares changing hands, boosted by several program trades. The FT index of 30 shares added 14.3 at 2,035.9.

Brokers are now becoming increasingly optimistic about equities in the run-up to Christmas. This was reflected in the futures market, where the FT-SE 100 December series was trading at a 60-point premium. James Capel, the broker, is believed to have been active in the traded options market, buying the December 2,650 put. This sort of exercise is often carried out by dealers wishing to hedge their underlying cash positions. Dealers reported an early mark-up on the back of an overnight softening in Japanese interest rates that is expected to pave the way for a cut in American prime rates on Friday.

Government securities celebrated the prospect of the election being postponed until after the Budget and gains at the longer end stretched to 1.5%. British Telecom was the star turn among the leaders, climbing 16.5p to 413p and accounting for 7 points of the rise in the index. This was in response to the government's plans to offer cut-price shares to private investors as part of its £5 billion sale. City

BRITISH TELECOM: SHARES DRIVEN HIGHER BY SELL-OFF PROPOSALS

Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct



institutions will be forced to compete for shares with overseas investors and it now seems likely that many of them will be unable to obtain the necessary weighting in their portfolios. This may mean that they will attempt to buy the balance in the marketplace, driving up the price still further before the sell-off.

The water companies were supported before the news that Ofwat, the regulatory authority, had reached agree-

ment with all but one of them about pricing arrangements next year. Dealers had been fearing a gloomy report from Ofwat. Gains were seen in Anglia, 14p to 399p, Northumbrian, 8p to 392p, North West, 9p to 383p, Severn Trent, 9p to 339p, Southern, 10p to 346p, South West, 8p to 372p, Thames, 10p to 383p, Welsh, 8p to 376p, Wessex, 4p to 426p, and Yorkshire, 12p to 416p.

Once again there was persistent talk that a big bid may be in the pipeline with the speculators busily trying to pinpoint the most likely target. Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drink and confectionery group, headed the list as the price jumped 15p to 438p. There has been heavy activity in the shares in the traded options market, fuelling talk that Philip Morris, the American food and tobacco group, may be ready to make an offer. Last month, Morris extended its credit facilities to \$15 billion.

The activity in Cadbury also rubbed off on a rival, United Biscuits, with the

shares advancing 10p to 414p. But Allied-Lyons, a recent takeover favourite, continued to meet profit-taking after its recent strong run, closing 6p cheaper at 628p. It was the target of an abortive bid by Elders Ltd, the Australian brewer, in 1986. Northern Foods celebrated its debut as a constituent of the top 100 companies with a rise of 12p to 547p.

Dealers said that the tracking funds, which follow the index stocks, had been adding to their holdings. But Laces Industries fell 8p to 140p on talk that a large line of stock is overhanging the market. UBS

Phillips & Drew, the broker, is believed to have tried unsuccessfully to place a line of 1 million shares at about the 145p level.

British Aerospace firmed 4p to 410p after Hoare Govett, the broker, took a party of institutions to Chester to look at the group's Airbus operations. The shares have fallen sharply recently after a boardroom coup, a fall in profits and a rights issue.

Davies & Newman, the Dan-Air aircraft operator, went into a nosedive, losing 80p to 70p after announcing plans to raise £53.75 million and the news of sharply increased losses. The proceeds will be used to reduce debt.

The group is expected to return to profitability next year. Pre-tax losses in the first half grew from £18.7 million to £30.4 million. Losses for the full year are expected to total £55 million.

Sears, the Freemans mail order and Selfridges-to-Saxone retailer, rose 4p to 94p despite reporting a sharp downturn in first-half pre-tax profits from £62.4 million to £4.6 million. Many analysts had been forecasting a loss and a cut in the dividend but this, in fact, was maintained.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, the chairman, described trading conditions as the worst for 20 years but said that most parts of the business had increased their market share.

Reins Industries, the property and construction group, up 8p to 143p after seeing full-year pre-tax profits fall from £27.3 million to £20.3 million.

Peter Parkin, the chief executive, described it as a strong performance in a severely depressed trading environment.

Amstrad, Alan Sugar's consumer electronics group, firmed up 4p to 47p as the company saw heavy options activity in the run-up to its full-year results, which are due tomorrow. Volume reached 2 million shares.

MICHAEL CLARK

Storehouse, the Bhs and Habitat-Mothercare retailer, lost an early lead to finish 2p cheaper at 109p as Gartmore Investment Management reduced its holding with the sale of 5 million shares, to below the desirable level of 3 per cent. Warburg Securities is also believed to have cut its forecast of profits for the current year from £21 million to £7 million. Rival County NatWest WoodMac believes the recovery is a long way off.

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bears
and tears**Portfolio****PLATINUM**

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6	Southwicks	Newspaper, Pub	
7	Owners Abroad	Leisure	
8	Farnell Electronics	Electricals	
9	Boat (Ireland)	Building/Roads	
10	Compass Up	Leisure	
11	Stratford J	Foods	
12	Fine Art Dev	Drapery, Stores	
13	Southernjardins	Industrials S-Z	
14	Body Shop	Drapery, Stores	
15	CRH	Building/Roads	
16	LWT CP	Leisure	
17	Burr (AG)	Foods	
18	Ferguson Ind	Finance, Print, Adv	
19	Br Land	Property	
20	Fired Earth Tiles	Drapery, Stores	
21	Ocean Group	Transport	
22	Unigate	Foods	
23	Swire Pacific "A"	Industrials S-Z	
24	HSBC	Bank, Discount	
25	Haynes Modellam	Industrials E-K	
26	Appliedair	Motor, Aircraft	
27	Tesco	Foods	
28	Hulme	Industrials E-K	
29	Strong Estates	Property	
30	City Elect	Electricals	
31	MB-Condon	Industrials I-R	
32	Vaux Grains	Breweries	
33	Abbey National	Banks, Discount	
34	Siebe	Industrials S-Z	
35	Timfords H	Industrials S-Z	
36	Bridgford-Croft	Industrials A-D	
37	Schuberts	Banks, Discount	
38	Greycoat	Property	
39	Br Polythene	Industrials A-D	
40	Flores	Industrials E-K	
41	Vinton	Industrials S-Z	
42	Low & Borer	Industrials I-R	
43	BTR	Industrials A-D	
44	ADM	Industrials A-D	

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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs S Stevens of Southampton.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91
High Low Stock

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In Gross
day Rate

Per cent

Per



Back to basics: traditional life on the island is the attraction for many visitors, 700,000 of whom come from Britain

From hell to heaven

The last time the jolly and well-fed lawyer from Basingstoke stayed at the Forest Park Hotel in Platres, seven of his friends died nearby in a Greek Cypriot ambush. But it did not put him off the island.

That night, in the winter of 1957, he was shivering on guard duty outside the hotel, a conscript in the British Army, which was locked in a murderous struggle with guerillas from Eoka, the organisation fighting for union with Greece. He said the hotel, high up in the pine-clad mountains, was requisitioned as a command centre by the British.

"I was bloody terrified, but I remember I just kept thinking, 'This is the first time I have heard a nightingale sing. I want to come back here when it is all okay'."

Thirty-four years later, he did come back with his wife to hear the nightingales, staying in the very room in which he was once cooped up with four other privates, "just down the corridor from where Daphne du Maurier wrote *Rebecca*".

Perhaps because it was once a colony, and most Cypriots speak English and drive on the left, Cyprus has a special fascination for the British. Nearly 700,000 came on holiday last year, outnumbering the Greek Cypriots who live there.

The Gulf war took an

inevitable toll of this year's arrivals, and it will probably be the end of next year before the 1990 figure of 1,500,000 arrivals is matched again.

Not surprisingly, tourists this year are treated more hospitably than ever, particularly the wealthy ones. The Cyprus Tourism Organisation (CTO) is unashamedly snobbish. It does not want lager louts from Bromley or backpackers from Berlin. The former are unpleasant; the latter do not spend enough. As a CTO handout proudly puts it, the majority of tourists in 1990 "came from the middle-to high-income classes, belonging mainly to the managerial and supervisory occupational groups".

The CTO is bravely trying to "cater for these upmarket visitors, aware that it has to improve the 'quality of the tourist product' to attract the sort of people who are not content to bluster on the beach". Serious mistakes were made in the 1980s, a decade when the number of tourists increased fourfold, and haphazard development threatened

more to offer than sun, sand and sea.

The campaigns highlight the island's history, its many archaeological riches at sites such as Curium and Paphos, the treasure trove of Byzantine, Ottoman and Venetian architecture within the old walls of Nicosia, and the cool summer resorts such as Platres in the Troodos mountains, where monasteries are more common than hotels.

President George Vassiliou this year banned spring hunting, infuriating the island's powerful 50,000-strong hunting lobby, but delighting ornithologists from abroad.

Cyprus has tapped into the growing demand for green tourism. Companies such as Sherpa have begun walking tours into the Akamas peninsula north of the bustling resort of Paphos. The Akamas, named after the ancient Greek hero who stopped off on his way back from the Trojan war to be seduced by Aphrodite, boasts many types of unique flora and fauna and is home to Lara Bay, where the rare green turtle breeds.

The peninsula has been declared a national park and villages are being tastefully restored to attract tourists who want a more genuine experience of life in Cyprus, from the rough but delicious village cuisine to earthy farm smells and the braying of donkeys.

From "Techne" to Technology

The Greek word "Techne" means both Art and Technology, which have always been a means of communication between different cultures and eras. Cyprus has a long tradition in Art, dating back to the 7th millennium BC. Our long tradition in art and communication is today continued and greatly enhanced by the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority. Making use of an advanced infrastructure and highly skilled personnel, CYTA offers a worldwide network of telecommunication facilities, linking Cyprus with the rest of the world.

This makes Cyprus the place not only for art lovers and connoisseurs but also for companies in need of reliable services or just people who want to communicate, any time, anywhere. So if communication is important to you and your business, CYTA is the right choice.

CYTA is for Cyprus the contemporary art of communication.



CYPRUS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

When technology calls we answer



Photo: AP Wirephoto
Courtesy of CYTA

Pride in a healthy economy

Despite the difficulties brought on by the Gulf war, Cyprus continues to enjoy economic conditions that are the envy of many of its neighbours. Only 1.8 per cent of the economically active population was unemployed during 1990, the lowest figure for many years. Inflation stood at 4.5 per cent, well below the rates seen in other European countries, although higher than in recent years.

Real growth in gross domestic product was 6 per cent in 1990 and is expected to be around 5 per cent in 1992, after falling to 1 per cent during the present year. Per capita income is estimated at £4,400 (£5,600), one of the highest in southern Europe.

The economy has, none the less, been badly affected by the decline in tourism that accompanied the Gulf war. It is expected to revive in 1992 as tourist revenues resume the upward path seen in recent years, but a widening trade gap during the first months of this year, and continuing rigidity in the island's monetary system, present significant challenges for the years ahead.

"In the short term, I am pessimistic," says Yiannis Tirkides, an economist with the Popular Bank of Cyprus. He predicts tourist revenues of £400 million for 1991, compared with an estimated £257 million for 1990. As a result, he expects a current account deficit of £180 million, the biggest in recent memory. Other banks on the island are more optimistic, putting the deficit at £130 million, while the Central Bank is expecting £120 million to £125 million.

Whatever the eventual figure, the Gulf crisis has exposed Cyprus's vulnerability to the disruption of its tourism industry, which accounts for about 70 per cent of net invisible receipts. Cyprus's trade balance deteriorated throughout the 1980s (with the exception of 1986), but a constant rise in invisible earnings kept current account deficits manageable and sometimes allowed a small surplus.

Tourist earnings rose by 17 per cent during 1990 as a result of an increase of foreign visitors during the first eight months of the year, and an increase in the average amount spent by each visitor. This is low compared with the increases witnessed in previous years, which often topped 20 per cent.

Sunshine base is vital link

BRITAIN'S two sovereign bases in Cyprus are striving to be part of a foreign field that is forever England. Michael Theodoulou writes. The garrisons are laid out in rows of neat little white-washed semis with red pitched roofs. Fiestas are parked in the drives and there are place names such as Biggin Hill village.

For many Cypriots driving on public roads through the bases, there is an understandable sense of culture shock, especially if they chance upon British officers playing polo while their hatted wives sip Pimms. Only the dazzling Mediterranean and the parched landscape stop the bases looking like Sandhurst.

The 4,000 servicemen there feel they are very lucky. Cyprus is a coveted sunshine posting. Clear weather makes it perfect for flight training missions. The sprawling base at Akrotiri on the island's southern coast - the largest RAF base in the world - hosts regular training detachments of Tornado bombers, Phantom fighters, ground-attack Jaguars and Nimrod surveillance planes.

Combined British headquarters is at nearby Episkopi, where the army keeps a battalion. A second battalion is posted at Dhekelia, 60 miles to the east.

The Gulf war reaffirmed the strategic importance of the bases. "As long as there's a British presence in the Gulf, we will have a part to play," says Air Vice-Marshal Sandy Hunter, the commander-in-chief of the bases.

Their main value in the Gulf crisis was staging and supply posts when more than 10,000 sorties were flown. RAF officials say the bases played an invaluable role, and there was "excellent cooperation" with the government of Cyprus.

After the war, the bases were involved in providing logistical support to British forces helping Iraqi Kurdish refugees. In the past, they have played a similar humanitarian role in relaying aid supplies to famine-stricken areas in Africa.

Cyprus is the envy of neighbours with high growth and low unemployment and inflation. Andrew Cunningham reports

The government expects that 1992 will see a return to these levels. Private-sector confidence in the long-term future of the tourist industry is evident from the fact that accommodation under construction now represents 27 per cent of the total current capacity.

Prospects for other sections of the economy are less rosy, however. Most other aspects of the invisible account have not kept pace with the growth in tourist income - increasing the dependence on tourism. More important, the trade gap has widened during 1991 as imports have increased and exports declined. A trade deficit of £270 million is expected.

Exports to the Middle East have held up in absolute terms, however, remaining above £100 million per year.

The region also remains the only one with which Cyprus has a trade surplus.

Britain is Cyprus's biggest trading partner, taking more than 25 per cent of the island's exports and providing more than 10 per cent of its imports. Greece, Lebanon and Germany are also important export markets. Japan, Ger-

many and Italy are main sources of imports.

The government continues to face the challenge of covering its fiscal deficit, budgeted at £136 million for 1991, equivalent to around 3.5 per cent of gross domestic product. The budget for 1992, introduced at the end of September, envisages a fiscal deficit of £102.3 million as a result of reduced expenditure.

The introduction of a value-added tax (VAT) is expected to have a significant impact on the government accounts, although many aspects of the tax are still under discussion. The tax is expected to be delayed by six months until July 1992, and even then it may be only partly implemented. The government wants to set VAT at about 10 per cent, while others prefer a lower rate.

The Central Bank is pushing hard for a liberalisation of the island's monetary system, which includes interest and exchange-rate controls and credit restrictions.

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At the Independent Television Commission (ITC) we license and regulate a wide range of commercially funded terrestrial, cable and satellite television services. The Director of Cable, Jon Davey, requires an experienced PA who can cope with an extensive range and volume of secretarial and administrative duties. As well as being educated to 'A' level standard, you will have at least six years' secretarial experience, be skilled in WP (preferably WordPerfect) and must be able to work under pressure. Tact and discretion are also important as you will have contact with a wide range of people from inside and outside the organisation. This post is based in Knightsbridge and is offered initially on a one year contract. Salary range £13,700 to £18,000. Please phone 071-824 7900 (between 9am and 5pm) for an application form which must be returned by 9th October 1991.

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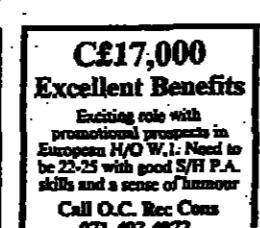
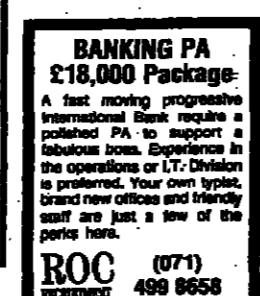
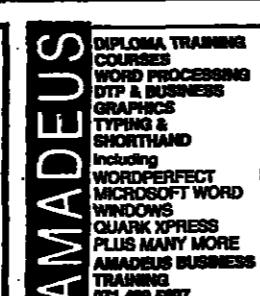
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Please write with full personal and career details to: Claire Anderson, The Jockey Club, 42, Portman Square, London, W1H 0EN.

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CAREER DESIGN

A temporary move that can become permanent

This has not been a good year for temporary secretaries. Fewer companies are employing them and their number has been swelled by large-scale redundancies among full-time secretaries.

The recession has made companies examine their budgets very carefully and question the need to pay for extra help. In the summer, one big company decided that no temp was to be employed without the approval of five managers. Some recruitment agencies have even closed down their temp sections.

However, there is still work around. Some companies prefer to replace departing full-time staff with temps rather than commit themselves to employing people on full-time contracts, with perks and possible redundancy payments.

Some agencies believe temp cover has been used throughout this year, but at a reduced level, and that some employers have been bypassing their services, negotiating directly with temps who have worked for them previously.

Temping continues to be a popular option for a lot of people, not only those unlucky enough to be out of a job. Temps have greater freedom, and the chance to take holidays at will and to work

when they please, particularly if they can work only during school holidays. Many temps would not want any other kind of job and they enjoy the variety.

If you want to temp and are stuck in the "No vacancies filled, no temp cover" trap, it is worth using every lead you have, contacting companies direct, getting tips from friends and trying agencies, which will still be notified of some vacancies. One employer says:

'I have to be very careful about sending the perfect person every time'

"Temps are very difficult to get hold of. If they are working or have changed address, you don't know how to contact them." It is also a good idea to register with several agencies, and pest them. Keep in regular contact, even if telephoning twice a day seems as if you are being a nuisance. Many people telephone once, early in the morning, but urgent jobs can be notified at 10am or even 11am.

How lucky you may be depends a lot on what kind of employer you

are seeking. The businesses least likely to employ extra staff this year have been estate agencies, property developers, advertising and media companies and those in the financial sector.

Secretaries who have chosen to work in specialist areas and who have appropriate qualifications are in a slightly better position.

Their work cannot be so easily handed to anybody else.

There is still some demand for bilingual secretaries — particularly those with a high level of fluency in languages and the ability to use two or more word-processing

systems and to work at senior and middle-management level.

Medical secretaries are also well placed for work, although even they have been hit by hard times. Hospitals, too, are making do where they might once have automatically paid for temp cover. For would-be temps with the right qualifications, which usually means a diploma from the

Association of Medical Secretaries, Practice Administrators and Receptionists, finding a job could prove less difficult. The medical field may be holding up reasonably well, but even so, Diane West, the manager of the Hospital and Commercial Agency, which has been placing temps in London hospitals for six years, has noticed a drop in vacancies.

One reason, according to Mrs West, is a recent increase in NHS salaries. "Three years ago, the salaries were diabolical," she says. "When a secretary resigned, hospitals had difficulty in finding replacements and we were filling 'temporary' jobs for anything up to two years. Now I do not have so much long-term work. Most of it is to cover sickness, holidays and maternity leave."

Mrs West still has short-term placements available for up to two months' work — for the right candidates. "I take on only qualified people with a minimum of two years' NHS experience, and I have to be very careful about sending the perfect person every time. Hospitals are hectic places, with no time to ease a temp in gradually. If a client specifies 'experience in cardio-thoracic work and ability to use Word Perfect', that is exactly what they mean."

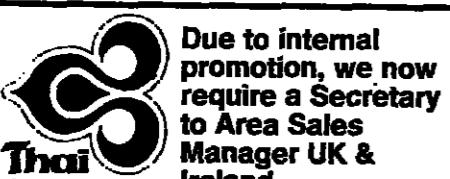


Special qualities: Diane West, an agency manager, says temps who specialise are still in demand

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For more information on this exciting post

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Marling poised to emulate her dam in Cheveley Park

FOLLOWING the victories of Made Of Gold and Culture Vulture at Ascot on Saturday, Dr Devious and Marling now have fine chances of adding to their reputation by winning the two main races at Newmarket today.

Marling, my selection for the Tattersalls Cheveley Park Stakes, has not been seen in action since she won the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot in June because a bout of coughing interrupted her schedule.

However, her trainer, Geoffrey Wragg, has still had sufficient time in which to give her a thorough preparation for today's group one race. She has been putting in some sparkling work of late and is now poised to emulate her dam, Marwell, who won the race 11 years ago.

At Royal Ascot, Marling ran on very strongly to beat Culture Vulture and Central City, both of whom were also undefeated at the time.

While Central City has not run since, Culture Vulture has paid her conqueror two glowing compliments: firstly, by winning the Lowther Stakes at York and again at Ascot on Saturday when she won the

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Brent Walker Fillies' Mile, albeit on the disqualification of Midnight Air.

Since she is by Lomond, Marling should be capable of doing over six furlongs what she has already achieved in over the minimum trip.

Her racing career began on today's course in May when she beat Twafeej, one of her opponents again today. Twafeej has since also paid her a compliment by winning the

valuable Moyglare Stud Stakes at the Curragh.

Made Of Gold's victory in Saturday's Royal Lodge Stakes, coming as it did after that sound effort against the crack French two-year-old, Arazi, was a clear pointer to Dr Devious in today's Tattersalls Tiffany Highflyer Stakes.

Dr Devious has been trained with today's race in mind since beating Made Of Gold in the Lanson Champsagne Stakes at Goodwood.

Rightly or wrongly, I was unimpressed by El Prado when he won the National Stakes at the Curragh and Ahmar Alwasheek, one of three Michael Stoute-trained runners, looks a greater threat.

Willie Carson, who rides Dr Devious, can enjoy another very profitable afternoon as he also has a clear chance of winning on Wesaam (1.30), Sarcia (2.35) and, Itqan (4.45).

Having won the Portland Handicap and the Ayr Gold Cup before running that cracking race under ten stone in another valuable handicap at Ascot last Friday, Sarcia takes a step up in class for the listed Rous Stakes but looks ready to bridge that gap.

Wragg has given Marling thorough preparation

3.55 Damerham Handicap

(2-Y-O colts & geldings: 2.55: 6f 212yds (14. runners))

MANDARIN

2.25 Indian Decision. 2.55 Quietly Impressive.

3.25 Bid For Elegance. 3.35 Valiant Words. 4.25

Kaytee. 4.55 Profit A Prendre.

THUNDERER

2.25 Wabash Valley. 2.55 Petticoat Power. 3.25

Bid For Elegance. 3.35 Stratford Ponds. 4.25 Olej.

4.55 Darussalam.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

SIS: DRAW: SOFT GROUND, LOW NUMBERS BEST IN

SPRINTS; OTHERWISE HIGH NUMBERS BEST.

2.25 MARLBOROUGH MAIDEN STAKES

(Div: 2-Y-O colts & geldings: 2.55: 6f 212yds (14. runners))

1 224 AUTOCRACY 25 R Haven 90. B Rouse 7

2 0020 DANCE SCENE 15 D Evans 50. J Williams 8

3 0420 DARTS 15 D G Lewis 90. D Evans 8

4 0020 DELTA TRADE 15 D G Lewis 90. D Evans 8

5 0000 9 D NADIA 11 D Jellico 90. A McNamee 9

6 0000 LANDSTED GENTLY 14 D G Lewis 90. T Williams 4

7 0000 MARLBOROUGH 25 (C,D,F) 6.5 C Bostock 7-24

8 0000 9 FAIRNATIONAL 37 (D,F) 6.5 C Bostock 7-24

9 0000 9 RIBBLE 15 D (F) 6.5 R Holden 9-5

10 0000 9 VENICENTY JESTER 131 (D,F) 6.5 R Holden 9-5

11 0000 9 STRATFORD FONDS 14 (D,F) 6.5 R Holden 9-5

12 0000 9 9 D WESAM 15 D (F) 6.5 R Holden 9-5

13 0000 9 9 D MARLING 15 D (F) 6.5 R Holden 9-5

14 0000 9 9 D WABASH VALLEY 9 D (F) 6.5 R Holden 9-5

15 0000 9 9 D TONYS APACHE 29 W Williams 9-0. A Forte 2

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Moving into the realms of global exposure



Gallagher: emerged in cup

The 1991 World Cup seems, to me at least, to have come around very quickly. This, no doubt, has much to do with my not having had to sit through four seasons of club, provincial and international rugby, as all those players who will be competing have had to. But it also says a good deal about the force of the tournament, the idea of the World Cup and the notion of "world champions" in sport.

For England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France, it means a great deal to be five nations' champions and, especially, to win the grand slam but this is nothing to the satisfaction and the true achievement that winning the World Cup will bring. For this reason particularly, the idea of being the best, the 1991 tournament has dominated the agenda of players, supporters and administrators the world over almost since the moment the 1987 tournament finished.

During the last few years, the World Cup has provided an outstanding focus for the development of the game worldwide.

It has spawned a structure for the involvement of almost every country in the world where rugby is played in a way which has moved the sport towards true international status and out of the shade of the British Empire.

Regional tournaments in Africa, Asia, eastern Europe and the Americas have drawn in the minnows and the profits, from what should really be called the final of the World Cup, will help to continue the development of these second- and third-tier countries.

Rugby union is quickly moving into the realms of true international sport and, while the 1987 World Cup was a most satisfactory start for this internationalisation of the game, the 1991 tournament presents the potential for a quantum leap.

The development of the game –

in the sense of the increase of playing numbers and the concomitant establishment of effective and lasting structures for coaching and local competition – will focus with new opportunities and new problems. A brave new world of rugby is about to be opened.

But before all that, we will

have the tournament itself and it promises to be a fascinating event. In 1987, New Zealand won with a degree of ease, which in some ways reduced the absorption of the tournament. Such was the gap between the All Blacks and the field that I can say now, four years later, that I positively knew that we were the best team and, barring some incredible self-destruction, we would win. This was reflected in my feelings as I lifted the cup.

It may sound strange and unfeling but I remember feeling more unbridled joy in winning the Dunedin club competition with the University of Otago when I was 23 than I did with winning the World Cup. The feeling in lifting the Webb Ellis Trophy was one of deep satisfaction – we had done what we knew we could do, and comfortably – and not with the great joy which comes with achieving a longed-for goal.

For me, there are two chief hopes of this tournament. First, I hope it will deliver the highest

quality rugby. World cups and world championships of all sorts provide the opportunity for the best teams and the best players to take individual skills and standards of performance to new heights.

possess the potential to unleash the stars of tomorrow and, in a different way, so do England. England do not have new players but they have the potential to introduce a standard of play, particularly back play, as much to themselves as to the world.

The England team has a match performance within it which is capable of sweeping all before it. Watching them as they struggle with themselves to find it will be a feature of the tournament for me.

The second hope I have of the tournament is that some of the so-called lesser nations provide genuine surprise in style and standard of play and also in result. I would very much like to see upsets and they are most likely to come from Fiji or Western Samoa or Canada.

Will we see a top ten nations after this tournament? Or eight we should call the first division? Whatever happens at the top end, it is my hope and belief that there will be some unpleasant surprises in store for some of the traditional heavyweights. If this happens, we will surely know the game has gone global with a vengeance.

Goalkickers must adapt in World Cup

Fox will not point to new ball as excuse for failure

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT



but it is the one we have to use and it will go all right provided you hit it correctly."

The ball, manufactured by Adidas, is lighter than some of those customarily used around the world. "There's no margin for error," Fox said. "With a leather ball you can get away with being slightly off in your timing. The synthetic one puts the onus on the kicker being technically very

correct. They don't react to being given a decent wallop, you have to stroke them over.

"I prefer them a bit heavier because they are affected less by atmospheric conditions. When we played Australia in Auckland conditions underfoot were uneasy, but the bottom line is that all goalkickers have rough days, once or twice a season. The last game you want that to happen is an international."

Lynagh has kept a World Cup ball at his home in Brisbane since that match. "It's something I have to get used to, as do all the kickers in the tournament," he said. "It's not the ball's fault if it doesn't go through the posts."

Meanwhile, there is a different kind of rugby ball doing the rounds of Surrey today.

This one, made of fibreglass, has gone 6,000 miles since it began its journey in June in the heart of England and, on the way, it has ensured that the World Cup is already a success because of the enthusiastic message that has been spread out to thousands of young

sters.

The running of the ball into Twickenham tomorrow by Alie Cronbie – the schoolboy who adopted the role of William Webb Ellis at the start of the message relay on June 29 – will signal the beginning of the 1991 tournament. Prince Edward will read the message placed inside by Michael Mavor, headmaster of Rugby School, and since transmitted via some 12,000 youthful runners through England, France, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

The essential purpose of the journey, which the organisers claim as the longest relay ever run, has been to bring rugby to communities large and small in the five host unions. In Wales, some 50,000 boys and girls have taken part in 73 festivals, including one for the disabled, as the ball travelled through 166 towns. It has been a magnificent vehicle for the promotion of rugby. Further festivals are planned, such as the Middlesex international youth sevens this Sunday at Richmond, London. Welsh and Staines.

"Within a year we have managed, if not to replace the missing technical finesse, at least to instil a new attitude that fires the spirit and feeds the capacity of the French player to date and dream. This is our main trump card."

Uncertainty dogs French build-up

From CHRIS THAU IN BEZIERS

FRANCE, uncharacteristically, will start their first game of the World Cup, against Romania, full of apprehension and self-doubt.

The game against the Welsh early last month did precious little to allay the fears. Their forwards showed a lack of appetite for combat while the backs, with the notable exceptions of Camberabero and Blanco, seemed predictable and out of form.

Jean Trillo, the assistant coach, said: "Peaking in the autumn has always been difficult for us and I feel that this could pose a problem for all northern hemisphere countries."

The Welsh game also revealed that, under severe pressure, France seem unable to change their pattern. This has been one of Trillo's main concerns since he publicly clashed with Daniel Dubroca over the decision to discard Pierre Berbizier, the scrum half.

Trillo is aware that the system which allows a French coach to advise his side throughout the game has left the players in need of a captain who can lead them out of trouble.

ICE HOCKEY

Dorian quick to make impact for Panthers

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

NOTTINGHAM Panthers, Cardiff Devils, Durham Wasps and Humberside Seahawks will contest the semi-finals of the Autumn Cup.

In the only group that was not cut and dried before the weekend, the Panthers won twice to finish top and the Seahawks won at Peterborough to beat the Pirates for second place. On Saturday, the Panthers' Canadian recruit, Dan Dorian, scored five times against Telford Tigers in his first game. Chris Kelland earned a club record nine assists.

It has been a disappointing season so far for Murrayfield Racers, but the return of Tony Hand brought about a transformation on Sunday as they beat Durham for the first time in two years. Hand assisted on all five goals. Racers have signed

AFTER all the recent misfortune with injuries in the Wales squad, Robert Norster, the team manager, was at last able to announce yesterday he was pleased with the recovery of Mark Ring.

After 28 international appearances, he now seems, provided he remains fit, set to

carve another rugby career at stand-off half.

Ring did play a full season with Pontypool in that position and has had the occasional match there for Cardiff, when his preference has been acknowledged in selection. His recent match against France, however, was his first in that position for Wales.

"He trained throughout the

morning, gently to begin with, and gradually increased the load as he went on," Norster said, not a little relieved at the prospect of the player who will determine much of Wales' style of play, being available for the team's first match, against Western Samoa on Sunday.

"He's made a remarkable recovery during the last ten days," Norster said. "This

morning he could do contact work, he could tackle and kick without a problem. I really don't anticipate any difficulty whatsoever from now on."

Ring had keyhole surgery on a slight tear on a cartilage in his right knee.

Steve Ford, the right wing, having felt the full weight of Phil May, the lock, in the morning had a bruised toe in the afternoon and Arthur Emry suffered a slight thigh adductor strain.

Again, the manager foresees no problems here.

The squad is based at St Pierre golf club, Chelston, but, apart from a couple of holes at twilight, no one has ventured too far down the fairways.

Yesterday the party went to the races at Bath. They ventured there, but not very little. Perhaps they will get better.

To maintain the hygiene of the team – for which, from those of us who were with them in Australia, much thanks – the first Welsh selection is not expected until Friday.

Norster is uncertain whether

he will be before or after the first game in the group, between Australia and Argentina in Llanelli. From there they will move back to Cardiff before the match against Western Samoa on Sunday.

BOXING

Lewis is beginning to look the part

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

IF THE manner in which Lennox Lewis brushed aside the challenge of Glenn McCrory on Monday night did not exactly reveal the British and European champion as ready for Mike Tyson, it was certainly impressive.

Admittedly, McCrory, who was no more than a blown up cruiserweight, would probably have suffered the same fate against an inferior heavyweight but there was no denying that Lewis' punches, for once, carried weight and destructive power, particularly the uppercut that floored McCrory for the first time in the second round. It had all of Lewis's 16x 7lb behind it.

Even his sternest critics must have noticed a more imposing champion than the one who beat Gary Mason. Even when steadily winning against Mason, Lewis never looked totally se-

cure until the referee finally called a halt.

This time Lewis took charge and set on McCrory from the first bell. The first jab had McCrory holding a blow to the body reminded him of the time Jeff Lomax knocked him out, and the uppercut finished him effectively. "I started early because I had confidence in myself," Lewis said.

There were those who thought Lewis's American trainer, John Davenport, was either bringing the boxer along too slowly or was incapable of developing him at all. They too must look again at the trainer. On this showing Davenport is the man to take him all the way.

John Horner, Lewis's lawyer who also helps with the selection of opponents, said: "You have to respect Davenport for achieving results. He has been very patient and has helped to change his style from the amateur days. He has given him confidence in his style."

BOXING

Lewis is beginning to look the part

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

The group behind Lewis is so confident that he will emulate Bob Fitzsimmons and bring the world title to Britain that, for a change, they are not chasing big money for big money's sake. They, and Lewis, are willing to wait. Slowly, the Olympic champion is growing into his professional clothes. Lewis, aged 25, has time on his side.

Inadequate training facilities have forced the Fijians to look for an alternative training site, it was disclosed by Fijian team officials yesterday. "The pitch was waterlogged. There was no grass on it and what wasn't under water was dangerously covered with stones," a team official said.

Fiji have decided to postpone the announcement of their team because of injury of some key players. Peni Vola, Vola, the tough Queensland prop, has injured a knee in training, while Nosa Nadruku, the centre, is also doubtful with a pulled hamstring. Both will have a stiff fitness test this morning before the announcement of the side.

Inadequate training facilities

morning, gently to begin with, and gradually increased the load as he went on," Norster said, not a little relieved at the prospect of the player who will determine much of Wales' style of play, being available for the team's first match, against Western Samoa on Sunday.

Documentary on Ali's life lasts ten hours

By SRIKUMAR SEN

MUHAMMAD Ali has proved once again that he is the greatest. He has become the only person in the world to have a commercial documentary made about his life lasting not 40 minutes or 60 minutes, or even two hours, but ten hours.

It has been made by an independent British production company. Directors International, and packaged into a ten-part series for television. The BBC, ITV and Sky television have all shown an interest in it. The film, which is entitled *Muhammad Ali – The Whole Story*, will be released on January 17 to coincide with Ali's 50th birthday.

John Cairns, who directed the film jointly with his partner, Lindsay Clemen, said yesterday at a buyers' preview: "At first we thought it would be one or two

hours. It was only when we started researching that we found a huge depth of material in the 30 years of his life, 30 years of American history, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, and boxing that it grew into a ten-hour film."

The film, which started with the help of Cairns's rugby club, Old Harlequins, which raised \$250,000 (about £160,000) to finance the project, will be shown in a segregated suburb of Louisville, Kentucky, where the Clay family lived, and ends in the streets of Calcutta, where Mother Teresa worked.

THE RUMBLE IN THE BUSH

Arsenal look

O'Leary benefits change

Scotland choose Weir for Cronin

By ALAN LORIMER

SCOTLAND have made two changes from the side that defeated Ireland in March for their opening World Cup match against Japan at Murrayfield on Saturday. The most significant is at lock, where Doddie Weir, the young Melrose player, is preferred to Damien Cronin.

"We knew that the lineout was one of our problem areas and so opted for Weir's greater height and jumping ability," Ian McGeechan, the Scotland coach, said yesterday. "The lighter weight of the Japan pack was also a factor in making what was a difficult choice. Weir's extra inches should give us the possession we need."

Weir, who played against Argentina last season and Romania at the end of August, will pack down on the right side. Behind Paul Burnell, the spinhead prop.

The other changes from last season's five nations side is at flanker, where Finlay Calder makes his return to international rugby at the expense of Derek Turnbull. Calder and Jeffrey will play right and left, following the pattern of recent seasons, but Calder will play off the tail of the lineout in the role of open-side flanker.

The Scotland party had another rigorous training session yesterday but without David Sole, who has developed a heavy cold. It is unlikely to prevent the Scotland captain from playing on Saturday.

In his absence, David Milne was at last-minute prop in the Scotland pack for accompanying practice against the rest of the forwards in the squad.

McGeechan reckons the Scots are now achieving the same intensity of training that they attained in New Zealand. "The problem is trying to get back to that kind of training without the environment of New Zealand rugby," he said.

"The pre-international games last year showed us what standard we had to achieve in order to compete with them. Once we had played a few games, we were able to adjust our training to meet the competitive requirements."

"We still don't know the level of game we have to produce to beat the likes of Australia and New Zealand. We will have to wait until we see how sides are performing in the group matches and only then will we get an indication of where each country's potential lies."

SCOTLAND: (Captains) G Hastings, T Stewart (Forward); S Linnets (Boroughmuir), T Tulloch (Galashiels), C Chalmers (Edinburgh), G McAllister (Edinburgh), D Alexander (Edinburgh Academicals), P Burnell (London Scottish), G Grey (Nottingham), D Wilson (London Welsh), J McRae (Kilmarnock), D White (London Scottish), F Groom (Clyde), E Evans (Dundee), D Judd (Aberdeen), J Robertson, N Hayley, G MacLennan, G Evans.

Opponents: P Dode (Glasgow), D Wyllie (Perth), M McRae (Fife), G Oliver (Edinburgh), G MacLennan (Glasgow), G Evans (Perth), K Milne (Perth), G Evans (Fife).

HOCKEY

Cup challenge begins on October 21

Arsenal look beyond the formalities for their European Cup second-leg visit to Austria

O'Leary poised to benefit from a change of tactics

From CLIVE WHITE in VIENNA

MAKE-believe is the name of the game here tonight in the Prater stadium as far as Arsenal are concerned. Instead of treating the second leg of their European Cup first-round tie against Austria Vienna as the formality which it is, the English champions will pretend that they are defending a lead of just one goal rather than five.

Without wishing to be disrespectful to his hosts, George Graham, the Arsenal manager, proposes to use the game as a dress rehearsal for the more testing examinations which are sure to follow away from home in this competition. Consequently, one can confidently predict that he will deploy the sweeper system for only the third time this season, and David O'Leary will be the man called upon to orchestrate it.

That would mean a disappointment for somebody in midfield and the most likely could be Anders Limpar, whom Graham has criticised this season for not playing to his potential. Ironically, the Swede was the player the Austrians most feared going into the tie.

"We've got to forget the first result because if we continue in the competition we're going to have to play away from home in different circumstances.

Tottenham ready to bide their time

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

TOTTENHAM Hotspur, the only English club in genuine danger of being eliminated in the first round of European competition, are preparing for a late night at White Hart Lane. The longer the second leg of their tie against Hajduk Split, the better the chances of survival, according to their manager, Peter Shilton.

The lack of stamina was the only visible flaw amid the talented Yugoslavs in the first leg. Although they overran Tottenham for an hour and might have gained appreciably more than a one-goal lead, they tired during the closing stages of the match, which was played in the Austrian city of Linz.

Shilton would not be concerned, therefore, if the aggregate scores are level at the end of normal time. "We'll have the extra half an hour on our own patch", as he put it yesterday, "and that is one of the avenues I can see the game going.

It could follow another less optimistic route. Hajduk Split are particularly threatening on the counter-attack and Tottenham's side-doors may be left ajar since they could be without both of their recognised full backs.

Bergson and Sedgley, the replacements for Fenwick and Ven den Hauwe, against Manchester United on Saturday, will probably have to be retained. For the sake of continuity, Tutt, aged 19, a former

stances. This is a rehearsal as far as I am concerned, so we've got to approach it in the right manner." Graham regarded the match as "still serious enough" not to disclose who, apart from Kevin Campbell, will be playing.

Putting aside the mauling which the Austria Vienna defence received at the hands of the most ruthless attacking force in English football, there were glimpses of the kind of fallibility in Arsenal's own defence which has curiously undermined their progress this season.

In Graham's opinion, the absence of Steve Bould has been responsible for their alarming (by their standards) defensive record this season – 15 goals in 10 League games as against 18 in the whole of last season – and no doubt he would have attempted to rectify the problem before now with the introduction of O'Leary as sweeper had the player not been restricted to just two appearances because of an Achilles tendon injury.

Should Graham call upon the Irishman now, it would mean the end of a 19-year wait; O'Leary, the only survivor from Arsenal's last European appearance nine years ago, has never played in Europe's premier club competition.

"We've got to forget the first result because if we continue in the competition we're going to have to play away from home in different circumstances.

That opportunity presents itself for a second time to Campbell after just a handful of appearances in the first team but is more than merited. His outstanding display in the first leg ought to have been reason enough that his selection should be automatic, yet it would seem that he plays primarily because Ian Wright, the club's new £2.5 million signing from Crystal Palace, is ineligible.

While that may not have been the reason as far as Graham was concerned, Campbell was prepared to believe so but he was not complaining. Showing a maturity not always evident in young talent and a consideration for the well-being of the team, he said yesterday: "I did think I'd be the one to make way for Ian last Saturday because I am the youngest. The manager's decision was justified because Ian scored a hat-trick. The team is more important than the individual. This is a good opportunity to be back in the side."

Graham confirmed that Wright would be ineligible until the quarter-final round providing Arsenal travel that far, when he would miss the first two matches in the group games but "could play in the next four – if selected".

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